Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-87-248
Monday
28 December 1987

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FBIS-SOV-87-248 *28 December 1987*

CONTENTS

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Underground Nuclear Explosion Conducted 27 Dec 1
Foreign Ministry Statement on Chemical Weapons 1
Significance of INF Treaty Discussed *[A. Ptashnikov, V. N. Chernyshev]* 2
PRAVDA Readers' Query on INF Treaty Answered *[V. Kozin in PRAVDA 22 Dec]* 4
INF Impact on Northern Europe Assessed *[I. Baranikas]* 5
General Batenin Discusses European Armaments 6
Rocket Troops Chief on Development, Future *[Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA 23 Dec]* 6

WORLDWIDE ISSUES

Security Council Determined To End Gulf War 9
UNGA Regards U.S. CW Production With 'Concern' 9
Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister on UN Usefulness 9
WFTU Gives 'Full Solidarity' With Palestinians 10
Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable' *[N. Agayants, Yu. Kornilov, B. Andrianov]* 10
Response to INF Treaty, DRA Settlement Reviewed *[I. Melnikov in PRAVDA 20 Dec]* 14
USSR Paper Views INF Treaty Impact in Asia *[A. Golts in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 Dec]* 17

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

United States & Canada

Gorbachev Named TIME's Man of Year 20
Shevardnadze, U.S. Envoy Discuss Contacts 20
Kornilov Criticizes U.S. Comments on Afghanistan 20
U.S.-Iranian Gulf Incident Reported 21
Material on Gorbachev Summit Visit Published 21
Friendship Society Welcomes INF Treaty 21

China

Gorbachev Plans Visit to PRC 'Next Year' *[TANJUG]* 21
PRC Denies U.S. Charge of Arms Sales to Iran 21

Northeast Asia

Shevardnadze, DPRK's Yong-nam Hold Talks *[PRAVDA 24 Dec]* 22
Soviet Olympic Officials Arrive in DPRK 27 Dec *[Seoul]* 22
Pentagon Delegation To Visit Japan Jan 1988 *Kamarin* 22
Japan, USSR Reach Fishing Operations Agreement *[KYODO]* 23
Japanese Oppose Supporting U.S. Forces in Japan 23
Anti-U.S. Base Demonstration in Okinawa 23
USSR, Japan Ratify Cultural Exchange Pact 24

Southeast Asia & Pacific

KGB's Chebrikov Visits Vietnam, Laos 24
Arrives in Ho Chi Minh City 24
Visits Hanoi CP Officials 24
SRV Visit Rounded Up *[PRAVDA 28 Dec]* 24
Arrives in Laos 24
Holds Talks With Phomvihan 25

DRA's Najibullah on 'Friendly Visit' to Vietnam 25
Nguyen Van Linh Speaks 25
Talks Continue in Hanoi 25
Leaders Address Mass Meeting 26
News Conference Held 26
Cooperation Treaty Signed 27
Korolov Comments on Next Sihanouk-Hun Meeting 27
Lao's Phomvihan Briefed on Summit Results *[PRAVDA 21 Dec]* 27

Near East & South Asia

Gorbachev Reportedly To Visit Syria in January *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 25 Dec]* 28
Heavy Fighting Reported in DRA Khowst Operation 28
U.S. 'Adviser' Killed 28
Alleged FRG Agent Captured in Afghanistan 29
BAKHTAR: Interference Continues 29
BAKHTAR Communique on Afghan Issue Cited 30
DRA Urges Simultaneous Aid Halt, USSR Pullout 30
Dushmans' Deadly Strife Belies Unity Claims *[IZVESTIYA 17 Dec]*
[Meshchannikov in IZVESTIYA 17 Dec] 31
Najibullah Arrives in India En Route to SRV 32
Holds Talks With Gandhi 32
TASS Analyst Views U.S. Aid to Pakistan *[V. Vavilov]* 32
USSR Envoy Briefs Nepal's Shrestha on Summit 33
Vorontsov Receives Iranian Envoy 25 Dec 33
Foreign Ministry Summons Iranian Envoy 27 Dec 33
Gromyko Praises 'Good' Relations With Iraq *[INA]* 33
Further on General Tretyak's Visit to Libya 34
Inspects Air Defenses *[TANJUG]* 34
Concludes Talks, Ends Visit *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 Dec]* 34
Arab Envoys Call on USSR To Promote Peace Parley *[Kuwait]* 34
PLO Envoy on Palestinian Demonstrations 34
Briefs 35
Metallurgy Protocol With India 35

Sub-Saharan Africa

Envoy Briefs Zimbabwe's Mugabe on Summit Results 35
Life in Benin 'Without Any Embellishments' 35

East Europe

Soviet-Bulgarian Space Crews Plan Mission 36
News Conference Held 36
Experiments Prepared 37
'Serious Shortcomings' Cause Romanian Shortages 37
SRV's Nguyen Co Thach Visits Albania 37

West Europe

Ryzhkov Interview by Swedish Paper Summarized 38
Ryzhkov To Visit Sweden, Norway 40
Italy's Andreotti Interviewed on INF Treaty, UN *[IZVESTIYA 17 Dec]* 40
Chatham House's Eberle Interviewed on INF Treaty *[PRAVDA 17 Dec]* 42
Gorbachev To Receive West Germany's Strauss 44

Latin America & Caribbean

Nicaraguan, U.S. Central American Policies Viewed *[Zagorskiy in PRAVDA 20 Dec]* 44
U.S. Contra Funds Approval 'Contemptible' *[Rostovsev]* 45
Nicaragua Denounces New U.S. Aid to Contras 45

Contras Launch 'Terrorist Sorties' at Christmas 45
Reconciliation Process in Nicaragua Assessed 46
Cuba Condemns Israeli 'Genocide' of Palestinians 47

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political & Social

Police Break Up 2d Antiwar Demonstration *[AFP]* 48
Eight 'Refusniks' Arrested in Demonstration *[AFP]* 48
CPSU Politburo Discusses Restructuring 24 Dec 48
Supreme Soviet Presidium Reviews Activities 49
Yeltsin Dismissal Due to His 'Avant-Gardism' *[MOSCOW NEWS No 51]* 49
Democratization Does Not Mean Liberalization *[PRAVDA 27 Dec]* 51
Economist Criticizes Stalin's Methods 53
CPSU's Razumovskiy on Reports, Elections *[PRAVDA 24 Dec]* 53
Shcherbitskiy Attends Council Session *[PRAVDA UKRAINY 16 Dec]* 59
Shcherbitskiy Addresses Ukraine Jubilee Meeting 60
Earthquake in Eastern Siberia Reported 60
Earthquake in Kirghizia Reported 26 Dec 60
Delays at New Votinsk Machine Tool Facility 60

Scientific

Academy of Sciences Electees Listed *[IZVESTIYA 25 Dec]* 61
Marchuk Comments on Elections 63
Research Satellite 'Cosmos-1905' Launched 25 Dec 63
Research Satellite 'Cosmos-1906' Launched 26 Dec 63
'Ekran' Television Satellite Launched 27 Dec 64
Further on 'Mir' Cosmonauts' Activities 64
Official Describes Mission 64
Joint Research Continues 64
Levchenko Studies Zero Gravity 65
Research Activities Described 65
Further on Activities 65
Progress on Complex Updated 65
Three Cosmonauts To Leave 66

Military

Yazov Addresses Moscow Garrison Propagandists *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 Dec]* 66
Lizichev, Others Address KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Staff *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 Dec]* 67
Sukhorukov Attends Army Personnel Conference *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 17 Dec]* 67
Reserve Lieutenant General G.I. Domanin Dies *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 Dec]* 67

Underground Nuclear Explosion Conducted 27 Dec
LD270436 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0415 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] At 0605 Moscow time on 27 December 1987 an underground nuclear explosion was carried out with a yield of between 20-150 kilotonnes at the test site in the Semipalatinsk region of the Soviet Union.

This test was conducted with the aim of improving military technology.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Chemical Weapons
LD261301 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1205 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, 26 Dec (TASS)—The following is the full text of the statement by the USSR Foreign Ministry:

On December 16, 1987, the United States launched the production of a new generation of chemical weaponry—the binary weapons (these are the chemical weapons in which the warfare poisoning substance VX or Zarin is formed of the relatively low-toxic components during the munition flight to the target). So, a step has thus been taken toward a new twist in the chemical weapons race, a step which was unprovoked.

This action, militaristic in its nature, was taken despite meaningful progress reached at the current Geneva talks on a total and universal ban on and the destruction of chemical weapons, talks that brought close the goal of ridding mankind of the chemical threat. Moreover, at the summit meeting in Washington a week earlier the U.S. leadership expressed its adherence to the cause of working out a verifiable comprehensive and effective international convention on banning and destroying chemical weapons, concurred with the need for more intensive talks with in order to concluding it.

The conclusion prompts itself that by embarking on the road of binary chemical rearmament, the United States is preparing to make a choice not in favor of an agreement on chemical disarmament. It is evident that it is the binary program that is the reason why the United States has begun to impede the Geneva talks on banning chemical weapons recently.

The U.S. binary program does not tally in any way with the shaped process of building confidence in the field of chemical weapons, confidence manifested through the visit by the parties to the talks, including the United States, only a short while ago to the Soviet military facility in Shikhanyy and the visit by Soviet experts to the U.S. military-chemical facility in Toole, Utah.

However, the negative consequences of the U.S. move to begin implementing binary rearmament are not limited to this. Although in words the United States loudly declares its concern over the emergence of new states possessing chemical weapons, by its actions it just prods the proliferation of chemical weapons, giving a bad example to those countries not presently producing them.

In making attempts to justify in the eyes of world public opinion the launching of binary weapons production, U.S. spokesmen usually allude to a chemical threat allegedly stemming from the Soviet Union. In so doing, they cite absolutely fantastic "data" on chemical weapons stocks in the USSR. It is claimed that in the USSR they amount to 250,000 to 700,000 tons of poisonous substances and that the USSR has a multiple edge over the United States in this field.

It is necessary to put an end to ths deception. The USSR Foreign Ministry is authorized to state that the stocks of chemical weapons in the USSR do not exceed 50,000 tons in terms of poisonous substances. According to Soviet expert estimates, this corresponds to the chemical weapons stocks of the United States. Moreover, all Soviet chemical weapons are located on Soviet territory.

Those who are making play of the Soviet chemical threat are deliberately ignoring that it is precisely the Soviet Union which is consistently striving at the negotiations in Geneva for a rapid total ban on chemical weapons as well as the destruction of all stocks and of the very industrial basis for manufacturing them, and which favors bringing the process of chemical disarmament under the strictest international monitoring [kontrolem], including mandatory on-site checks [proverki] on request without the right of refusal.

The USSR favors strengthening confidence and openness [otkrytost] in the area of chemical weapons. The U.S. side was handed our specific proposals on reciprocal exchange of data on chemcial weapons before the signing of the convention. The Soviet Union has halted production of chemical weapons, has never used these weapons, has not passed them into the hands of others, and has not situated [razmeshchal] them beyond its own frontiers. In preparation for the conclusion of the convention, work is being actively carried out in our country on creating facilities for destroying the entire chemical arsenal.

All these facts testify to that the start of binary chemical weapons in the United States is nothing other than an attempt to torpedo the process of chemical disarmament, a manifestation of disrespect for the efforts of the states participating at the conference on disarmament in the multilateral talks on banning this kind of weapon of mass destruction, and for the frequent calls of the UN general assembly for the acceleration of these talks. The U.S. binary program runs counter to the aspirations of the peoples of the world who are pinning their hopes on the cause of real disarmament moving forward in all directions following the conclusion of the treaty between the USSR and United States on the destruction of medium- and shorter-range missiles.

The USSR condemns this action by the United States and considers that it creates a new situation in the field of chemical weapons that could require appropriate measures to be taken. At the same time the USSR will continue to do all it can to prevent the talks in Geneva being wrecked, which is what the United States is prompting by its actions.

The USSR counts upon the understanding and support of all countries that advocate ridding mankind of barbarous chemical weapons.

Significance of INF Treaty Discussed
LD241727 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1245 GMT 23 Dec 87

["The Treaty on Eliminating Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles; First Step Toward A Nonnuclear World" program presented by commentator Andrey Ptashnikov, with TASS Military Observer Vladimir Nikolayevich Chernyshev]

[Text] [Ptashnikov] Hello there, comrades! As you know, a Soviet-U.S. treaty on the simultaneous elimination of two classes of nuclear missiles was signed during the visit of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to Washington.

A long and difficult path preceded that undoubtedly significant event in the history of human civilization. I am not distorting the truth if I say that it became possible chiefly thanks to the consistent policy the Soviet Union directed at preserving peace on the planet, its tireless attempts at curbing and eventually stopping the arms race. Our country's readiness to go for a compromise, sometimes even concessions—with a due regard for our own security, of course—also played a significant role. As a result, over the next 3 years, the Soviet and U.S. medium- and shorter-range missiles are to be scrapped, provided that the treaty is ratified, naturally.

What I would like to stress particularly is that for the first time in the practice of international relations, a document has been signed that does not just envision the limitation or reduction of this or that type of weapons, not just stopping their production, but their elimination. In other words, now it can be said with certainty that mankind has finally embarked on the path leading to a world without weapons. I shall ask Vladimir Nikolayevich Chernyshev, TASS military observer, who is taking part in our program, to tell us in greater detail about the significance and conditions of the treaty that was signed in Washington. Over to you, Vladimir Nikolayevich.

[Chernyshev] The most important thing about the treaty that was signed in Washington lies in the fact—as you have noted already—that it has begun the real scrapping, the elimination of nuclear weapons. That is a unique event in history and in relations between the USSR and the United States. The signing of the treaty confirmed that progress toward a nonnuclear world is possible. It confirmed the realism of the Soviet program of getting rid of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction up to the end of the 20th century put forward in the statement made by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev on 15 January, 1986. That was confirmation of the new political thinking, proof that the Soviet Union is seeking its implementation in the practice of international relations.

The treaty lives up to the aspirations of all peoples; it has an international nature. The interrelated interests of both the allies of the USSR in the Warsaw Pact and the United States' allies in the NATO bloc are also contained in it. Moreover, that does not only mean the nine countries whose territory is a real or projected site for the deployment of medium- and shorter-range missiles; these are the countries of the world whose security is enhanced in conjunction with the conclusion of the new treaty.

[Ptashnikov] Vladimir Nikolayevich, quite a lot has already been written and said regarding the political significance of the treaty. However, when it comes to its military meaning, they usually only speak of a modest achievement, because it is admittedly directed at ridding humanity of a mere 4% of the nuclear weapons. What can you say precisely on the military significance of the treaty?

[Chernyshev] The Soviet Union went for signing that treaty with the United States, because the full elimination of the U.S. nuclear missile systems of these two classes, of medium- and shorter-range missiles, is full of obvious military and political benefits both for itself and its friends and allies. Naturally, the United States and its allies have their own benefits. Let us look into the core of the issue.

First, the U.S. medium-range missiles that are being eliminated in Europe are essentially a U.S. strategic weapon with regard to the Soviet Union and its allies—a kind of supplement to the U.S. strategic arsenal. Whereas the Soviet INF are not capable of reaching U.S. territory, the U.S. Pershing-2 missiles are capable of hitting targets in the European part of the USSR as little as 8-10 minutes after launch. Those are, in admission of U.S. experts, the most destabilizing, most dangerous, most provoking missiles. With their elimination, the largest part of the material base of the Washington strategists who pegged the plans of the so-called limited nuclear war on the continent to the existence of the medium-range missiles, is removed.

One can recall how official U.S. spokesmen, even those on the highest possible level, used to state openly that an exchange of nuclear strikes was possible in Europe, carrying out demonstration nuclear explosions in the event of a conflict, and all that was supposed to be possible without such exchanges of nuclear gifts growing into a global nuclear war.

The chief idea of the Pentagon behind the situation of the INF on the territory of the West European NATO member countries boiled down to something quite different from care for European security: to the desire to turn this continent into the main theater of operations, and in the event of war, to reduce the power of the USSR's retaliatory strike at U.S. territory.

Second, the presence in Europe of very speedy and precise missiles needing an extremely short time to home on the target creates a considerable danger of an accidental and unsanctioned outbreak of a war, especially in conditions of a crisis situation. The time for consultations and reaching a well-grounded conclusion as to the intentions of the other side when a missile is accidentally launched by one of the sides, would have been too short .

Third, if the treaty does not come into being—that is, if it is not ratified—the United States, in accordance with the NATO plans, will deploy additionally on the territory of Western Europe 143 ground-launched cruise missiles in the next year, 1988, thus bringing up the total number of their medium-range missiles—taking into account the Pershing-1A missiles that belong to the FRG—to 644 units. It is quite understandable that in that eventuality the USSR will not just sit there and do nothing. The nuclear arms race would have then gained even greater momentum.

All this leads one to conclude that removal of all these missiles from the continent should serve to normalize the situation. The joint Soviet-U.S. summit statement says that the joint achievement of the treaty is a vital contribution to the strengthening of stability.

[Ptashnikov] Nevertheless, it should be admitted that one can still not infrequently hear the fears expressed on our side: Would the conclusion of that treaty not be detrimental to the Soviet Union's security, as long as our country cuts more weapons than the United States?

[Chernyshev] I believe that such fears are inspired by insufficient public knowledge. People at large are quite removed from issues of military strategy. And besides, a considerable portion of the blame also rests with us, representatives of the Soviet media. You remember what a clear-cut balance of nuclear forces in Europe used to be drawn. Following the start of deployment of the new U.S. missiles, the Soviet Union took countermeasures, and they spoke of the balance again, with necessarily taking into account the British and French nuclear forces.

But at the moment, as the Soviet Union scraps twice as many missiles and warheads than the United States, they point it out again—in an oversimplified way, I would say—that everything has been calculated and figured out, they say, and our security is not going to suffer. Yet some observers fail to give an answer to the question: Why it is not going to suffer?

Well, I must say it is all indeed not that easy, and putting it straight, the public is not always aware of what is involved. I would like to turn to the fact that, as stressed by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in his recently published book, the new thinking came at the end of a long road and a painful reflection, as a result of repudiation of some postulates that appeared to be unshakeable. I believe that that road was especially difficult in the military field.

Let us have it straight: it took some time for our country to reconsider the ideas that belonged, strictly speaking, to a prenuclear age, or in the very least, to the times when the nuclear arsenals of the sides were not as large. The military and strategic balance which makes it possible to ensure security in the present conditions, characterized by the existence of vast nuclear arsenals, possesses a significant dynamic scope that eventually by and large alleviates quantitative differences in these arsenals.

Strategic parity in our times is, above all, the capability of both the United States and the Soviet Union to inflict unacceptable damage on each other. That means that one can have regional disbalances without any detriment to one's security. The fact that the Soviet Union deemed it possible to exclude the British and French nuclear forces from the count in the regional European balance, that it singled out, took out, so to speak, the medium-range missiles out of the Reykjavik package, having added the shorter-range missiles on top and reducing twice as many missiles and warheads according to the treaty has reflected this new thinking. Even then, our country's defensive capability is not reduced in any way. After all, its military potential consists not only of a certain quantity of medium- and shorter-range missiles but also other important means of reliably ensuring defense capability: strategic offensive forces, tactical nuclear armaments, conventional weapons, and armed forces. What really matters remains: the impossibility of resorting to the use of nuclear weapons to achieve political ends by any of the sides.

[Ptashnikov] Well, I hope that your explanation will convince our listeners that the fears that the USSR's defense capability might have diminished are groundless. So, the Soviet Union has displayed new thinking in the military field in practive. And how, do you think, will it affect further talks in the field of arms control?

[Chernyshev] The principle of assymetrical reduction used in the treaty, is, it seems, to become universal and to be used depending on the measure of objective necessity for carrying out more significant cuts in particular classes of armaments first by one side and then by the other.

Let us take an exceedinglty important issue, for instance, reduction of the sides' strategic offensive potentials. I shall remind you of the fact that the U.S. offensive strategic forces have an estimated 15,000 nuclear warheads, and the Soviet Union has about 10,000. It has

been already agreed at summit level that as a result of a 50% cut, each of the sides will have not more than 6,000 warheads of that designation. Therefore, one can infer that when an agreement on the 50% cuts is concluded, the sides will, as it were, trade places. At present, the Soviet Union is scrapping 2,500 and the United States 1,320 warheads of the medium- and shorter-range missiles. In the field of strategic arms, the Soviet Union will scrap about 4,000 and the United States about 9,000 warheads.

It appears that the principle of assymetric reduction can be also used at the talks on conventional weapons and conventional armed forces. The Soviet leadership has stated firmly that in this field as well as in others, he who has more of certain weapons, needs to scrap more of them accordingly. But the approach here should necessarily be bilateral and just.

[Ptashnikov] Vladimir Nikolayevich, and now a few words about NATO. As is known, many governments of the countries belonging to that bloc, have given quite a positive assessment to the treaty and its impact on future talks, and particularly the talks on strategic offensive weapons and conventional weapons. At the same time, one is made wary by the persistent attempts of certain NATO circles to take steps which would sharply diminish the significance of that important step. Moreover, NATO headquarters has been developing plans which, in design of the Western strategists, would make it possible to bypass the INF Treaty.

[Chernyshev] Yes, you are right indeed. Calls are being heard from Washington, London, and Paris to carry out the so-called update [dovooruzheniye] in the nuclear field following the scrapping of the U.S. missiles, to ensure the bridging of some mythical nuclear missile gap that would ostensibly appear in Europe when the U.S. missiles are gone. Certain circles demand an additional siting at West European air fields of aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons, ships carrying cruise missiles on board in the neighboring seas, modernization of the tactical nuclear missiles, and so on.

The objective pursued by those advocating NATO's update is absolutely clear: to prevent the military and political situation in the European Continent from changing for the better. Normalization of East-West relations frightens them, and the prospect of putting an end to the arms race is fearsome. A nonnuclear Europe—and the INF Treaty is the first step in that direction—does not suit the fans of nuclear weapons in some of the NATO capitals at all.

The danger of a nuclear update is obvious. If its implementation proceeds, it can lead to another round in the arms race, to the undermining of the efficiency of the INF Treaty. The Soviet leadership has already stated that such actions are inadmissible: they would undermine the trust of the Warsaw Pact states in their partners in the talks, the United States and the NATO bloc as a whole.

[Ptashnikov] Well, I hope that does not happen. Thank you, Vladimir Nikolayevich, for the interesting talk. Thank you too, comrade listeners, for you attention.

PRAVDA Readers' Query on INF Treaty Answered

PM241147 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[Candidate of Historical Sciences V. Kozin article: "Balance of Interests"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] We answer this question from readers: "Why, according to the terms of the treaty between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of their medium- and shorter-range missiles, is the USSR going to destroy more missiles and warheads than the United States?"

According to a memorandum of understanding on establishing initial data which is an inalienable part of the Soviet-U.S. agreement, the USSR is eliminating not only more missiles of the two aforementioned classes themselves but also more warheads for them. This is explained by the fact that the USSR has more missiles subject to destruction deployed and non-deployed (826 medium-range missiles and 926 shorter-range missiles) in comparison with the United States (689 medium-range missiles and 170 shorter-range missiles), and that one of our types of medium-range missiles (the RSD-10, known in the West as the SS-20) has 3 warheads, whereas U.S. medium- and shorter-range missiles, being single-warhead missiles, carry only one warhead. Zero means zero, and each side must eliminate all its deployed and non-deployed medium- and shorter-range missiles.

People are also drawing attention to the larger number of inspections which the United States may carry out on the territory of the USSR, the GDR, and the CSSR—approximately 400 during the 13 years that the verification mechanism is in operation, as opposed to approximately 240 inspections carried out by the USSR on the territory of 6 NATO states categorized as "basing countries" (the United States, Britain, the FRG, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands). This difference arises from the fact that the Soviet Union has more relevant military facilities, which is reflected in the memorandum appended to the treaty.

However, it is not only a matter of figures. The Soviet Union embarked on the signing of the treaty on medium- and shorter-range missiles with the United States since the complete elimination of these two classes of U.S.

nuclear missile systems has obvious military-political advantages for the Soviet Union, and for its allies and friends (of course there are advantages for the United States and its allies).

It is of extreme importance that the Warsaw Pact countries will be rid of the threat lurking in the U.S. Pershing-2's and the ground-launched cruise missiles, which are first-strike missiles possessing great accuracy in hitting their targets (to within 30 meters), and carrying a powerful warhead (from 80 to 200 kilotonnes, which is 8-15 times greater than the yield of the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima). Their flight time upto a mere 10 minutes which is an extremely short period of time for taking crucial military-political decisions in the event of a nuclear missile attack by the North Atlantic bloc. It is obvious that the NATO countries too would not be in the best condition if the Soviet Union were to carry out a retaliatory strike.

It is also important that both sides are eliminating a definite nuclear potential although the weapons liable to destruction form only 4% of the contemporary nuclear arsenal. Thus the total capacity of the nuclear charges of just the medium-range missiles to be eliminated by the United States in Western Europe amounts to 6,400 "Hiroshima-size" bombs. If the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-range Missiles is not ratified, then next year the United States will have 8,000 such "Hiroshima-size" bombs in Western Europe. The tragedy of Chernobyl represents a small smoldering bonfire in comparison with the sea of fire compressed within the medium- and shorter-range missile warheads of the USSR and United States.

Finally, if the treaty does not become a reality, then in accordance with the NATO decision adopted 8 years ago the United States will additionally deploy in 1988 on the territory of Western Europe another 143 ground-launched cruise missiles, bringing their overall number (together with previously deployed cruise missiles, Pershing-2 ballistic missiles, and the Pershing-1A belonging to the FRG) to 644 units. This would mean that the United States would be training its sights on the corresponding number of vitally important targets on the vast territory of the Warsaw Pact states—from the southwest and western borders to a line joining Arkhangelsk and Astrakhan. It is quite understandable that the USSR would not sit back in such a situation. The nuclear arms race would take on even broader parameters.

The Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles, a carefully checked out and specifically worded document, is not detrimental to the security of either side. It has no parallel in terms of the elaboration of procedures for the elimination of nuclear systems and in terms of the forms and methods for verifying the fulfillment of its terms. The treaty constitutes a balance of the interests of the sides and a balance of their compromises: Each side has surrendered just as much as was necessary to balance their interests in the specific situation in question. Both the USSR and the United States have taken the appropriate steps toward one another in the marathon of working out the accords and have reviewed or modified their positions with a view to achieving a compromise. The significance of this document, which is the first real step toward nuclear disarmament, goes beyond the framework of purely military and technical measures and beyond the national borders of the nine states directly affected by it.

The treaty signed in Washington 8 December 1987 is addressed to the future. "The accords secured," M.S. Gorbachev said, speaking on Soviet television, "constitute a historic opportunity for all mankind to begin to get rid of the heavy burden of militarism and war that have not only caused enormous human casualties, but have cast back economic development and material culture, and fettered the peoples' freedom and their spiritual and social creativity."

The peoples of the world expect that the Soviet Union and the United States will take the next, even more important step toward nuclear disarmament—and will secure an agreement on a radical—50%—reduction in strategic offensive armaments.

INF Impact on Northern Europe Assessed

LD251354 Moscow International Service in Finnish 1530 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Ilya Baranikas, NOVOSTI Observer, commentary]

[Text] Following the signing by the Soviet Union and the United States of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Nuclear Missiles a more active discussion has arisen on how this act will affect the political and military situation in the world. The NOVOSTI observer, Ilya Baranikas, examines now the effects of the missile treaty on the north of Europe.

The missile treaty is a treaty according to which, for the first time in the world, current nuclear weapons have to be eliminated. Therefore, it will become the first step in nuclear disarmament. Soviet-U.S. talks on the reduction by half of strategic offensive weapons are awaiting their turn. Every person in the world will understand that after the elimination of thousands of nuclear explosives life will become safer. As regards Northern Europe, it means a greater easing of tension than, for instance, in Central Europe, which corresponds to the hopes of the Nordic people.

The Treaty on Eliminating Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles creates greater possibilities for the creation of a nuclear weapons-free zone in Northern Europe. In the event that the missile treaty comes into effect, NATO will remove its 689 Euromissiles, very many of which are directed against the Soviet Union via the airspace of the Nordic countries. It is generally known that the United States and NATO are particularly interested in the

northwestern part of the Soviet Union and the Kola Peninsula. In the event that NATO missiles are launched via the airspace of the Nordic countries, these countries will face a great risk.

In the speech delivered by Mikhail Gorbachev in Murmansk on 1 October it was announced that the Soviet Union has already earlier dismantled the launching pads of the intermediate-range missiles in the Kola Peninsula and most such pads in the areas of the Leningrad and Baltic military districts. Now that the Soviet-U.S. treaty comes into effect, the last medium-range missiles near the north of Europe as well as the shorter-range missiles will be removed. The Soviet Union has understood the desire of the Nordic countries to see the Soviet territories bordering on them as areas without nuclear weapons.

With the reduction of the number of its missiles in the northwestern part of the country the Soviet Union has also restricted the exercises of its Navy on the borders of the Nordic countries and confirmed once again in Mikhail Gorbachev's Murmansk speech that it is prepared to remove from the Baltic six submarines capable of carrying altogether 18 nuclear missiles. This last-mentioned measure will be implemented if the plan for a nuclear-free north is realised.

But the Soviet Navy's nuclear missiles in the Baltic are by no means the only nuclear weapons in the Baltic. Great Britain has large numbers of nuclear weapons right in the vicinity of Scandinavia. It has 64 medium-range missiles alone. U.S. and British submarines armed with Poseidon and Polaris missiles are patrolling the North Atlantic and the Norwegian Sea. Since 1983 cruise missiles have been deployed on board U.S. submarines in the North Atlantic. Great Britain has a medium-range nuclear Air Force, and U.S. aircraft carriers also have such missiles on board. There are Lance missiles and nuclear artillery in Schleswig-Holstein in the Federal Republic of Germany, next to Denmark.

We could continue and specify this list. In any case, the Treaty on Eliminating Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles will help to create a nuclear weapons-free zone in Northern Europe, because this treaty breaks off the nuclear armaments spiral. In short, it will certainly have an effect in the north of Europe, both a military and political effect now and in future. A firm place must be held by a new kind of thinking, the starting-point of which is: My opponent's security is my security. The doctrine of a nuclear arms strike and of nuclear intimidation must give way to sensible defense. There is still much to do, although a foundation was laid in Washington, writes the NOVOSTI observer, Ilya Baranikas.

General Batenin Discusses European Armaments

LD241306 Moscow TASS in English 1247 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 24 TASS—"A considerable reduction in conventional arms should become next important step in the process of disarmament in Europe following the elimination of intermediate-and shorter-range missiles," Major General Geliy Batenin, military expert of the CPSU Central Committee, stated today in an interview with a TASS diplomatic correspondent.

"At the consultations being conducted in Vienna between the countries of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and NATO with a view to working out a mandate for talks on a reduction in the armed forces and armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, the Soviet side comes out in favour of solving, along with cutbacks in conventional arms, the question of reducing tactical nuclear weapons. These are first of all, nuclear-capable aircraft, tactical strike aviation, nuclear artillery, nuclear mines, and nuclear land mines."

"At the same time," the Soviet expert pointed out, "the military-political leadership of the West still counts on keeping nuclear weapons of mass destruction in service with the troops. NATO circles keep telling about the need to remain committed to the 'doctrine of containment' and 'nuclear deterrence' which is inherent in their strategy of 'flexible response'".

"The aggressive 'enemy image' which emerged in the cold-war days, and the lack of understanding of the true meaning and goals of the existence of the purely defensive alliance of the member-states of the Warsaw Treaty Organization also affect the issue. There is a deliberate distortion of facts, too. All this is resultant of the fact that the policy and strategy of the West cling to nuclear weapons."

"Disarmament is a continuous and integrated process," Geliy Batenin pointed out. "Any stop on the way is fraught with the risk of being immediately thrown back. Therefore it is of particular importance now, when intermediate- and shorter-range missiles are being eliminated, to be aware that other delivery means which cover the range still remain, such as, for example, tactical aviation which in its capabilities and range of operation belongs to the class of medium-range systems."

"'Rearmament' plans and 'compensation measures' which are now under discussion in NATO circles can only give a new impetus to the arms race and to undermine trust in the negotiating partners, in the United States and NATO as a whole," General Batenin emphasised.

Rocket Troops Chief on Development, Future

AU241755 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 23 Dec 87 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Army General Yuriy Maksimov, commander in chief of the Strategic Rocket Forces, by NOVOSTI correspondent Stefan Fedoseyev, "at the request of NARODNA ARMIYA": "The Soviet Strategic Forces"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Fedoseyev] How were the strategic rocket forces formed, and how did they develop?

[Maksimov] The formation of the first rocket units in the USSR coincided with the start of development work on the first experimental samples of ballistic rockets. The first of these units made its appearance in 1946, mainly composed of personnel from a "Katyusha" guards regiment. As rocket equipment became available, more and more new units were born. However, things did not always proceed smoothly and easily. Many difficulties had to be overcome. The world situation and the arms race in strategic weapons unleashed by the United States did not permit us to delay and fall behind. The Soviet Armed Forces continued to be supplied with ever more advanced nuclear missile weapon systems, including strategic weapons—an important factor in curbing imperialism's aggressive aspirations. The supreme military-political leadership acquired the capability of having under its command powerful systems and weapons that permitted it, if required, to directly resolve the chief tasks of repulsing and destroying any aggressor.

This aim could best be achieved through concentrating the main strategic nuclear missile weapons within the framework of an independent branch of the Armed Forces. On this basis, the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government adopted a decision in 1959 to create Strategic Rocket Forces. This meant that the Soviet Armed Forces were entering a qualitatively new stage in its development, one that characterized the further growth of their might and marked a sharp increase in their combat capabilities.

Today the Strategic Rocket Forces, together with the Nuclear Missile Forces of the Soviet Navy and Air Force, form the basis of the fighting power of the Armed Forces of the USSR, which guarantees the sure defense of the socialist homeland and the entire socialist community.

[Fedoseyev] What can be said regarding the relationship between the strategic missile weapons of the USSR and the United States?

[Maksimov] At the start of the seventies approximate parity was attained between the USSR and the United States with respect to the numbers of strategic nuclear weapons and their combat power. The establishment of military-strategic parity was a historic achievement of the Soviet people. The Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT-II), signed in 1970 by the Soviet and U.S. leaders, set this parity at the level of approximately 2,500 delivery vehicles for the USSR and about 2,300 for the United States. However, the United States possesses more nuclear charges. This situation has been more or less preserved until the present day. This becomes convincing if we take a look at the data on the strategic nuclear forces of the USSR and the United States that was handed over by the Soviet delegation to President Reagan during the Reykjavik talks. It can be seen from this data that the Soviet Union, for example, has more ICBM's than the United States, while the latter possess more heavy bombers, including those equipped with cruise missiles. Taken overall, the USSR has a certain superiority in numbers of delivery vehicles for strategic nuclear arms (the USSR has 2,480, the United States 2,206), while the United States holds the advantage in nuclear weapons for strategic delivery vehicles (the USSR having 10,000, the United States 14,800). Notwithstanding this, as a whole, parity does exist.

[Fedoseyev] Despite this, Washington persists in asserting that the United States is lagging behind the Soviet Union in strategic forces, because the Soviet land-based ICBM's have about 70% of the warheads, whereas for the United States the figure is about 20%....

[Maksimov] Yes, but this does not disturb the balance of the countries' strategic potentials. The point is that the Pentagon deliberately ignores that the United States has more than 80% of its ballistic missile warheads installed in submarines and in its heavy bombers. This is several times higher than the numbers in the Soviet counterparts. The Pentagon needs to intentionally misrepresent the state of affairs in order to justify a new twist in the nuclear arms race spiral.

The United States, after refusing to observe SALT-II in 1986, began increasing its strategic offensive forces at a rapid rate, directing its efforts toward achieving military superiority over the Soviet Union. Special attention was paid to the plans for deploying the "MX" ICBM's, equipped with 10 warheads, each with a yield of 600 kilotonnes. The Pentagon intends to deploy 100 such missiles. The first "MX" missiles are already in a combat-ready state. Development work is continuing on the "Midgetman" mobile-based ICBM's. It is planned to deploy 500-1,000 such missiles by 1992.

As a result of implementing its programs for ICBM's, sea-based missile systems, air-based cruise missiles, and its strategic air force, the U.S. nuclear potential will increase to 20,000 warheads by the beginning of the nineties. Their capacities to deliver nuclear weapons to their targets in a single launching (take-off) operation will increase by a factor of at least 1.5. Is it really necessary to prove what an immense threat to peace is represented by such a mighty potential in mass destruction weapons as America possesses?

The USSR has steadfastly continued to call for the elimination of nuclear arsenals, a halt to the arms race on earth, and the prevention of its spread into space. The Soviet all-embracing program for delivering mankind from nuclear weapons by the end of the century is widely known, as well as the series of unilateral steps made by the USSR to facilitate the opportunity of solving this problem. Thus, for example, the Soviet Union and the United States have already signed the Treaty on Eliminating Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles. This is an encouraging step. However, the U.S. Administration does not want to give up the "Star Wars" program and is making it difficult to achieve an accord on strategic arms, while at the same time continuing to increase its nuclear might. The Soviet Union is naturally compelled

to undertake the necessary practical measures to prevent the undermining of the military-strategic parity— measures of such a kind as to exclude the possibility of the United States obtaining superiority in the main types of new strategic weapons (these weapons are being developed at present in the United States, and plans exist to add them to the effective strength).

Under conditions where the United States clearly displays its aspiration to achieve military supremacy over the Soviet Union and obtain the capability of mounting a first nuclear strike against our country with impunity, the maintenance of the strategic nuclear parity is of particular importance. We, the rocket forces, see this as one of our most important tasks. We are bound not to permit superiority in the military hardware aspect, in combat readiness, or in personnel training. This is precisely what we are working on now.

The military-strategic parity that was created has consolidated the positions of the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community, and foiled the plans of the aggressive imperialist circles for victory in a nuclear war. The preservation of this balance, but at a steadily decreasing level, is a weighty factor in guaranteeing peace and international security.

Security Council Determined To End Gulf War
LD242145 Moscow TASS in English 2112 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] New York December 24 TASS—The U.N. Security Council has expressed determination to put an end as soon [words indistinct] to the conflict between Iran and Iraq and reaffirmed that implementation of Resolution 598 is the sole basis for its comprehensive, just, honourary and durable settlement. Today the Security Council has adopted a staement stressing commitment to Resolution 598 as a single whole. The Security Council has announced its intention to consider further steps for ensuring the implementation of that resolution.

UNGA Regards U.S. CW Production With 'Concern'
LD271431 Moscow TASS in English 2137 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] New York December 26 TASS—TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Chernyshov reports:

The production of binary weapons, a new generation of chemical weapons, by the United States has been regarded with concern at the United Nations Organization (UNO) where it is viewed as a step towards a new spiral of the chemical arms race in defiance of the U.N. calls for concluding an international convention as soon as possible on a ban on and elimination of the monstrous instrument of the "silent death".

The just-concluded 42nd session of the United Nations General Assembly has passed a series of resolutions on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons. They emphasize the conviction of the international community about the need to make every effort for continuation and successful completion of the talks on banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of all types of chemical weapons and on eliminating them.

The General Assembly instructed the conference on disarmament to intensify talks on such a convention as the first priority and to take more vigorous actions to work it out as soon as possible.

One of the resolutions stresses that bilateral and other discussions, including the exchange of views between the Soviet Union and the United States within the framework of multilateral talks on issues concerning a ban on chemical arms, where taken note of.

In this light the start of the production of binary weapons by the United States has been regarded at the U.N. headquarters as an attempt at frustrating the process of chemical disarmament during the concluding stage of the elaboration of such a convention, and as a direct challenge to the will of U.N. member nations which declared for a ban on this monstrous type of weapons of mass destruction.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister on UN Usefulness
LD241654 Moscow TASS in English 1309 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 24 TASS—We are confident that the United Nations Organization should be preserved as an indispensable instrument for maintaining the peace, said Vladimir Petrovskiy, a deputy minister of foreign affairs of the U.S.S.R.

Answering questions of Soviet journalists about the results of the 42nd session of the United Nations General Assembly that had completed its work in the main, he noted that the session—a barometer of the world political weather—demonstrated a unanimous stance in favor of ensuring equal security for all and addressing current problems, not by means of power politics, but on the basis of cooperation and of supplementing unilateral efforts with multilateral ones.

The session, Vladimir Petrovskiy went on to say, succeeded in its efforts at gradually replacing fruitless and propaganda-oriented polemics and lofty-sounding declarations with a business-like and civilized dialogue with a view to finding a balance in line with the interests of all groups of states. The tendency toward the search for points where political positions of individual states come into contact made itself felt in a notable increase in the number of resolutions approved by consensus. They made up an unprecedentedly high percentage—about one third of the total number.

A conceptual breakthrough at the session was made on the issue of a comprehensive system of international security. The issue was proposed by the socialist countries last year, but only a procedural resolution was approved at the time. The 42nd session passed a resolution of a fundamental character which stated in no uncertain terms that it was important to continue and develop a resultative dialogue at the United Nations and other fora in all directions and at all levels so as to bring closer together various concepts and study ways and means—acceptable to all—for ensuring comprehensive security. A specific decision was taken—to instruct the United Nations secretary general to study ways and means for an exchange of opinions on the proposed dialogue and to continue it at the next session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Formulating the concept of comprehensive international security, Vladimir Petrovskiy emphasized, is only one aspect of the undertaking. The most important thing is that even today not only the foundation, but also first stories of the edifice of comprehensive security are being built in practical politics and practical actions. A graphic example of that is the Treaty on the Elimination of Soviet and American Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles signed in Washington. Agreements that, we hope, will follow it will be linked with further

progress along the lines of curbing the nuclear arms race and abolishing chemical weapons and would become important structures in the edifice of comprehensive security.

Vladimir Petrovskiy expressed satisfaction at the fact that, despite the resistance with which the concept of comprehensive security was still being met by certain states that have a pronounced conservative tilt in their policies, that concept was accepted, approved and acquired the status of a United Nations document.

WFTU Gives 'Full Solidarity' With Palestinians

LD250731 Moscow TASS in English 0450 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Prague December 25 TASS—TASS correspondent Valeriy Rzhevskiy reports:

The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) expresses full solidarity with the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine against terror and repressive actions in the Israel-occupied territories. This is emphasised in a WFTU statement which has been circulated here.

In the statement the WFTU calls on the working people and trade unions of all countries to strengthen solidarity with the Palestinian people who press for an end to the Israeli occupation.

The WFTU requests the United Nations Organization to take urgent measures to bring about an end to repressive actions against the Palestinians and to guarantee the observance of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable'

LD272247 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 27 Dec 87

["International Observers Roundtable" program presented by Nikolay Agayants with TASS Observer Yuriy Kornilov and Moscow All-Union Radio Commentator Boris Andrianov]

[Text] [Agayants] Good morning, comrades. Less than a week from now, the chimes of the Spasskaya Bashnya at the Kremlin will strike midnight and the new year, 1988, will begin. As we look back and sum up the things we have lived through, we single out today the main and most vivid events of the departing year, a year that for us, citizens of the land of the Soviets, for our friends in the socialist states, and for all progressive mankind, has been colored by the red calico of a festive jubilee: the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. It has been a year of deepening and activizing restructuring on all fronts, a year in which the concept of peace, thanks above all to the efforts of our foreign policy and our constructive initiatives on the international scene, has taken on substantial new content.

[Andrianov] If we're to discuss the processes and trends that have determined, to an ever increasing extent, the course of international events in the year now ending, I think there is reason to say, Nikolay Ivanovich, that the most established of those tendencies is the assertion in dealings and relations among states of the new political thinking. This is becoming embodied in concrete decisions and is, step by step, changing for the better the very image of our many-sided, stormy, and so anxiety-ridden planet. Here one should perhaps remark that the profound processes, large-scale shifts and changes occurring in our society cannot fail to exert, and of course are exerting, a beneficial influence in strengthening the unity and cooperation of the socialist states. They are operating in the direction of enabling that unity and cooperation to achieve qualitatively new objectives—hence the united desire of the fraternal peoples and the fraternal parties to impart the greatest possible dynamism to that interaction while organically combining the initiative of each country with the common policy agreed on by all. On the international scene, this approach is manifesting itself convincingly and strikingly in the ever great coordination of the most important foreign policy actions of the Warsaw Pact member states. In the economic sphere, that same approach is reflected in the ever new steps we are all taking to bring about a serious shared leap forward in the spheres of scientific-technical, economic, and social progress.

There are more than a few objective and subjective difficulties in the way of realizing our plans; but those plans are not at all utopian, as our ideological opponents in the West are trying to assert. Our socialist community has all it needs for the successful implementation of its projects.

[Agayants] Yes, that is indeed so, Boris Vasiliyevich. We have a powerful productive potential, and have laid a solid scientific-technical groundwork; we have the natural resources and experienced cadres. So looking ahead today, we will not sin against the truth if we say that the coming year, 1988, will, without a doubt, be marked by both a growing interaction by the fraternal countries in the international arena and by ever greater, deep, and many-sided economic cooperation among them. The assertion of the new approaches and of the new political thinking—and this is entirely obvious—is introducing noticeable positive changes into East-West relations. You know, if there existed in nature a barometer of the political climate on our planet, I think everyone would be able to see with their own eyes today that, for the first time in the long years of tension, distrust, and suspicion, the indicator of that barometer is moving away from overcast. That's a good sign. Judging from the reports that are still coming in to our editorial office, literally from every corner of the globe, the prominent political and public figures of many countries, the mass media, and people of goodwill—wherever they live and whatever their views and convictions—assess very favorably the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting that has been held in

Washington, the talks that have taken place, and the Treaty for the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles that was signed.

[Andrianov] Yes, everyone, literally—with the exception of those frank opponents of the easing of interantional tension, the unbridled anti-Sovietists—literally everyone is noting that 8 December 1987, when Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan put their signatures on the Treaty for the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles, will go down in history as the date that marks the watershed dividing the era of the increasing nuclear threat from the era of demilitarizing human life. Now it has been proved in practice that it is possible to create a nuclear-free world, and that the Soviet program for ridding us of nuclear weapons and other types of mass destruction weapons by the end of the century, as set out in the well known declaration by the CPSU Central Committee general secretary on 15 January 1986, is realistic. Well, all this gives the millions of peoples in the world reason, when they look into the future, to expect that the positive process that has begun in the world will continue.

[Kornilov] I think, Boris Vasiliyevich, that there are very substantial grounds indeed for that optimism. Let me remind you that in the course of the Washington dialogue at the summit, an accord was achieved on holding another meeting of the leaders of the USSR and the United States, the fourth in the past few years, this time in Moscow. It is expected that during this meeting they will examine the question of reducing by 50% the most powerful and most dangerous weapons; strategic weapons. The outlines of the future agreement, which can be achieved if there is strict observance of the ABM Treaty, are today taking shape fairly clearly. Experts estimate that at present there are about 20,000 megatonnes of lethal explosive stockpiled in nuclear arsenals. This represents approximately 1 and 1/2 million bombs like the one dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. Is there any need to mention the a sigh of relief the peoples of the planet would react with if the destruction of the 2,600 medium- and shorter-range missiles equipped with that explosive was followed by the scrapping of half of all strategic weapons, including about 13,000 nuclear warheads?

[Agayants] All that is so, Yuriy Emmanuilovich. In my view, however, there is something more that needs to be said, and it's this: While consistently and purposefully advocating the continuance of nuclear disarmament, the Soviet Union and our allies and friends emphasize again and again the necessity of clearing away the obstructions on the other paths toward removing the threat of war. After all, the existing Mont Blancs, figuratively speaking, of other weapons remain a very serious obstacle to the achievement of universal peace and reliable security. There is no type of weapon—whether it be nuclear, chemical, or so-called conventional—that the socialist countries would be unwilling to reduce or remove from the armories altogether, by agreement with the other states, of course. We are working toward this. As just one example, I'll remind you of the large-scale initiatives of the Warsaw Pact member states regarding a radical reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. That is a very important, constructive proposal.

[Andrianov] Looking to the future, the peoples express the hope that the year ahead will be marked not only by noticeable progress in solving the problem of our time, namely, disarmament, but also by the elimination at last if not of all, then at least of the most dangerous of the planet's hot spots—that peace will come to those parts of the world where conflicts are raging, shots are ringing out, and blood is being spilled.

[Kornilov] Well, yes. The tendencies that have been initiated on the international scene in the year now ending do provide realistic grounds for such hopes. There is an increasingly strong conviction in the modern world that the national reconciliation policy can—and therefore must—play a decisive role in removing and eliminating regional conflicts. The results of the current year testify that it is the implementation of that particular policy that opens the way to resolving the existing acute problems and contradictions, and above all to putting an end to the senseless fratricidal wars. In a word, if we're to untangle the knots—the very complicated and painful knots of world politics—we'll need patience and goodwill. This applies in full measure to the regional conflicts that exist in the world.

[Agayants] An event of the past week that has had considerable international resonance were the Soviet-Jordanian talks held in Moscow and the meeting between King Husayn ibn Talal and Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. The foreign media, especially the Arab press, radio, and television, commented favorably on these talks, noting the precise, clear, and consistent Soviet position on the Near East question. The CPSU Central Committee general secretary and the ruler of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan were absoltely unanimous that only one path leads to the achievement of a comprehensive and just settlement in the Near East, and that is the convening of a fully empowered international conference. Only in this way, by collective efforts on the basis of honest interaction, can we reduce to a common denominator the interests of the Arabs, including the Palestinians, Israel, and the other states. No matter how one views it, the Palestinian factor is the key element to a Near East settlement, which is simply impossible without the PLO. That is what Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and King Husayn said during their meeting. That position is as clear as can be, and it demands an equally clear and concrete answer. But what do we hear from the West? What are the United States and their strategic ally in this explosive region, Israel, doing about it?

[Andrianov] Yes, the severe conflict in the Near East has continued to bleed for almost 4 decades, and moreover, dangerous new layers of discord are being added year by

year. One new knot of contradiction is being tied after another. Nor can one fail to notice that an unprecedentently burdensome arms race has developed in the region. External forces are implicated in the Near East conflict, and to make matters worse, they are becoming more and more extensively involved—in an attempt to exploit the situation for their own narrow purposes. What it adds up to is an obvious chronic military and political instability there, senseless loss of life, ruined towns and villages, and economic collapse. All this engenders an atmosphere of dangerous tension and produces in the people living there a sense of uncertainty about tomorrow.

[Kornilov] It must be said at this point that the Arab-Israel conflict remains the prime cause of the very acute crisis in the Near East, and its center is the Palestine problem. You'll remember that as long ago as 1948, the Zionist invaders occupied the greater part of Palestine, and just over 20 years ago the Israeli military seized the remaining lands. Well, you know that the Palestinians who found themselves either under the heel of the Israeli occupation forces or in the position of exiles in the neighboring countries, have not reconciled themselves to the usurpation of their mother country. Confirmation of that—and it is convincing confirmation—comes from the events of recent weeks in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands, where what amounts to a universal nationwide uprising of the Palestinian population against the Israeli occupiers is taking place. The Zionist military is, in effect, waging military operations, in which even their tanks and helicopters are taking part, having been brought in against the unarmed inhabitants who demand the return of the lands that have been theirs since ancient times, and protest against the policy of genocide and mass terror of the rulers in Tel Aviv in relation to the Palestinian Arabs. The Israeli punitive troops are not sparing their cartridges. Scores of Palestinians are already listed as dead, while the wounded number in the hundreds. Both lists include young children. The crimes of the Israeli occupiers have aroused—and continue to arouse—the mounting angry indignation of the international community. Just recently the UN General Assembly assessed Israel's actions on the occupied territories as a war crime and an insult to humanity, and at special Security Council sessions the representatives of a great many states resolutely branded the brigandage perpetrated by the Zionist authorities.

[Agayants] A wave of indignation and protests in connection with Israel's armed violence is sweeping the world. Even the U.S. press, renowned for its pro-Israeli sympathies, is not silent about it. And what is the White House doing? In words the Reagan administration claims the role of champion of human rights in other countries. It seems this is the right time for it to intervene actively and stop the bloody crimes of its strategic ally in the Near East, who is now trampling on the main human right—the right to life—by shooting Palestinians. Official Washington, however, has not uttered a word condemning the most cruel repressions committed by the Israeli authorities.

[Andrianov] Naturally, there are reasons for this position. If one speaks about those who shape U.S. policy in the Near East, one can say they have been possessed for a long time by a fixed idea. It manifests itself in striving to suppress or, at least to outlaw, Palestinian resistance at all costs. The proponents of this course see this movement as a kind of embodiment of the region's anti-imperialist forces. It is no mere coincidence, therefore, that Washington likes to manipulate the word terrorism so much, distorting this concept deliberately and using it to describe liberation movements or, when applying it to the Near East, the Palestinian liberation movement. In this connection, I assume one ought to recall how Washington acquired this anti-Palestinian syndrome. It resulted from a desire to pay the Israeli expansionists for their part in a strategic alliance with the United States. The alliance itself was formed mainly by the design of U.S. imperial circles, for it was precisely they who created Israel's military machine, regarding it as a means for establishing their domination over the Near East; they continue to do all they can to strengthen the Israeli Zionists' militarist mechanism. Here is the latest exmaple. At a time when the world holds the Tel aviv rulers up to shame for their evil deeds, the U.S. Congress decides to give Israel $3 billion in aid. The fact is more than eloquent by itself.

[Kornilov] Yes, under Washington's patronage, Tel Aviv has, indeed, raised terror against the lands it has occupied to the rank of state policy. The terror has been adopted to deprive the people, the Palestinian people, of its hopes for the implementation of an inalienable right, the right to self-determination on its national territory. The courageous resistance that the Palestinian people puts up today to the occupationists shows graphically the hopelessness staking anything on the iron first policy.

[Agayants] Indeed, facts show again and again that a confrontational approach to regional problems has obviously outlived itself, particularly in the Near East. The Soviet Union is far from indifferent to what is going on there, for this region of the world is quite close to our country's borders. Of course, the geographical factor is not the only one, it is not the main circumstance prompting the Soviet Union's persistent efforts to ensure that striving for sensible compromises and not solutions imposed by force triumphs in the Near East. This is the Soviet Union's general and principled course regarding regional conflicts.

[Andrianov] As you have said, Nikolay Ivanovich, interantional attention is now focused on the idea of convening a plenipotentiary internationary conference on the Near East. One can say that this idea is gaining strength and weight, but when it was first put forward not all states agreed to it, but now even those who did not even want to hear about it are beginning to think about it and discuss its possibilities. The absolute majority of the Near East countries and permament members of the UN Security Council, including the United States, now share this idea. However, another question is opportune here:

how are the tasks of this conference seen by various parties, not only regarding the form but also the essence and contents of the conference? There are circles trying to make its convocation dependent on far-fetched preconditions and various reservations. These circles are trying to use the broad agreement being formed in favor of the conference to their advantage. This striving is manifested in the lack of constructiveness in the positions of the United States and Israel, and in their attempts to impose their own methods of settlement.

An approach of that kind is clearly unrealistic, and, moreover, this line goes not only against the interests of the Arabs, but against thos eof Israel, too. An international conference should not be a cover for separate accords, as they are unable to lead to a just and stable settlement in the Near East. This was shown by the sad experience of the Camp David agreements. This means that all the sides, including the PLO, must take a collective part in working out a just and comprehensive settlement in the Near East, incuding the Palestinian problem. This should be done on a multilateral and on a bilateral basis. The main thing now is to get the mechanism for an international conference moving and to start practical talks to initiate the process of unblocking the Near East conflict.

[Agayants] Absolutely true, Boris Vasilyevich. But, simultaneously, one must normalize the situation in the Persian Gulf. The situation there is still deteriorating and threatens to take the form of a serious international crisis. The concentration of armed forces in the Gulf—ships, aircraft, and other weapons, first of all those of the U.S. Armed Forces—has acquired absolutely intolerable proportions. At the moment as many as nearly 80 warships belonging to the United States and its allies are there, and U.S. ships account for more than a half of them. The Western press is full of reports that soon these ships will number 100 or even more. At the same time it is clear that even the current concentration of these naval units may, undoubtedly, entail—and, by the way, this is what is already taking place—consequences that may get out of control.

[Kornilov] Well, Nikolay Ivanovich, Washington, as is known, asserts insistently that the cause of its armed interference in the Persian Gulf and the buildup of the U.S. Navy there is dictated by its efforts to provide freedom of navigation. The Kuwaiti press, however, notes for example that the military presence of the United States and other Western countries in the Persian Gulf, far from guaranteeing the safety of navigation, provokes new attacks on ships.

The U.S. President claims that the presence of U.S. ships promotes the establishment of peace in the Near East. The participants in the summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries that just opened in Riyadh would hardly agree with this interpretation. They are discussing the problem of how to normalize ithe explosive situation in the Gulf, which is threatening peace and security in the entire region, and this in no way fits in with the assertions of the master of the White House. The U.S. President assures us that the U.S. warships are needed in the Gulf to secure uninterrupted oil deliveries. Here is what retired Rear Admiral Gene La Rocque, director of the U.S. Center for Defense Information, said about this: The truth is that oil was delivered freely from the Gulf until the United States hoisted its flags on Kuwaiti tankers and increased its military presence there. The war in the Gulf has become more intense, whereas the intake of oil has dropped. The quotation ends there.

[Andrianov] The United States' armed intervention in the Persian Gulf is a graphic manifestation of imperial logic based on Washington's desire for world hegemony. By operating with methods of force, the White House was evidently reckoning on crossing out, in particular, Irangate, which revealed all of Washington's duplicity and its instigatory role in the Iran-Iraq war. However, such operations merely confirm the defective nature of U.S. neoglobalist policy. A realistic policy now demands a completely different approach, a responsible and constructive one. It is precisely such an approach that is being demonstrated by our country. The Soviet leadership states that the situation in the Gulf must be thinned out, and the sooner the better. Therefore, the Soviet Union has spoken in favor of the withdrawal from that region of all ships from states that do not have coastline there, and our country insists on this. If the talk is of the creation of necessary conditions for free navigation in the Persian Gulf, then one should bring the UN Security Council into operation—a mechanism, incidentally, that is envisaged by the Un Charter.

[Agayants] A special institution does indeed exist in the UN for this: the Military Staff Committee of the Security Council. The Soviet Union believes the formation of a UN naval force will permit a recovery in the political climate in the Persian Gulf. That is our position, an honest and unprejudiced one.

[Kornilov] And I would also like to add something on the subject of regional conflicts and the explosive hot spots that cause such alarm among the worlds peoples. We said today that the national reconciliation policy should play a decisive role in eliminating regional conflicts. This policy opens the path to stopping senseless fratricidal bloodshed and to solving urgent problems facing the whole nation. The present policy of the Kampuchean leadership, which has worked out a broad, concrete program for attaining national agreement in the country, is in accordance with these very goals.

I had occasion very recently to meet and talk in Moscow with a member of the Politburo of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, the chairman of the Kampuchean Council of Ministers, who was with us in Moscow for a few days on his way from Paris, where as is known, he met and held talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk. What is the essence of this

program, I asked Comrade Hun Sen. He noted that this program envisages Cambodia's readiness for constructive dialogue with any opposing groups and persons, except for Pol Pot and his closest accomplices. It envisages the withdrawal of the Vietnamese Volunteer Forces at the same time as the end of all outside interference in Cambodia's affairs. It also envisages general elections in the presence of foreign observers and finally, last but not least, the summoning of an international conference to guarantee the implementation of the accords.

Of course, here, as in the other cases about which we have spoken, there are forces constructing a solution to the problem. These forces are operating, and one must not discard that fact from the reckoning, but it is not that which is important and noteworthy. What is important and noteworthy is something else: namely, that even in this rather complex situation, the ideas submitted by the Cambodian leadership to eliminate a conflict that has been clouding the situation in Southeast Asia for many years are gaining strength and constantly acquiring new supporters—not only in Cambodia, incidentally. Cambodia's neighbors and friends, Vietnam and Laos, are starnding up actively and energetically in favor of a just political solution to the problem. A good example has been demonstrated by Indonesia, which has played a positive role as an intermediary in arranging contacts between the various Cambodian political forces. The policy of the Cambodian leadership, directed at attaining national agreement, is meeting with greater and greater understanding and support among the public of the ASEAN member countries.

[Agayants] To conclude our program, comrades, I would like to talk about this: Today, at the end of the jubilee year, I think it appropriate to turn once more to our glorious, although very complex, revolutionary history and to recall one of its memorable pages linked with the formation of Soviet foreign policy and preserved for us in the memoirs of the Leninist Bolshevik Bonch-Bruyevich. Almost 70 years ago, in 1918, a drawing of the coat of arms of the young socialist state arrived at the Soviet of People's Commissars for Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. The coat of arms had the same form and emblems as now, but a drawn sword was portrayed in the middle. There's a good idea there, Comrade Lenin said. But what is the sword for? We have no need of conquests. A policy of conquest is utterly alien to us. So he struck out the sword with his pencil. Not a sword, but peace—such is the unshakeable Leninist instruction, and such is the core of Soviet Foreign Policy to this day. However complex and difficult the path may be, our people are holding the Leninist banner of peace firmly in their hands and will continue to hold it high.

On this point we will close our meeting today. Before bidding farewell, comrade listeners, we want to congratulate you on the coming new year and to wish you good health, happiness, and success in your affairs and accomplishments. Thank you for your attention. All the best to you.

Response to INF Treaty, DRA Settlement Reviewed

PM221021 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 87 Second Edition p4

[Igor Melnikov "International Review"]

[Text] Success Without Euphoria [subhead]

Political life got straight off to a good start last week. M.S. Gorbachev gave an address on Soviet television on Monday, when he summed up the results of his Washington visit. At the same time one has the impression that this address was the starting point in the enormous amount of hard, practical work that still has to be done to "build on" the work already completed at the summit meeting.

Neither the road leading to the visit or the visit itself were straightforward. As far as the road leading up to it is concerned, the main landmarks on it were Geneva and Reykjavik, while the staging posts in between have been the scene of intensive dialogue between Soviet and U.S. leaders as well as intensive diplomatic negotiation. This dialogue was backed up by both sides' collaboration with their allies and exchanges of opinion with the leaders of other states. The Soviet side constantly paid attention to the mood of the international public.

The 27th CPSU Congress decisions and the program for a nuclear-free world that was announced almost 2 years ago and has consolidated its authority with the passing of time served as the philosophical-political basis of our preparations for the meeting. With such a strong backup, we were able to make bold decisions in the confident belief that we had considered everything down to the last detail from a military and technical viewpoint without any detriment whatsoever to our own security.

These decisions held good. The Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles was signed. Even now—if we are to judge by world reaction—it is clear that what is "medium and shorter" from a technical standpoint is a very major event of international life from a political standpoint.

The Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles is now reality. The two leaders went even further in Washington. They confirmed their willingness to make a 50% cut in strategic offensive weapons on the condition—this was insisted upon by the Soviet side—that the ABM Treaty is retained in the form in which it was approved 15 years ago in Moscow. We again urgently raised the issue of concluding a treaty to completely ban nuclear tests as soon as possible. The questions of eliminating chemical weapons and reducing conventional arms and armed forces in Europe were also discussed in great detail.

The Washington meeting continues to echo through the broad corridors of world political and social life. The voices of ill-wishers and skeptics are being drowned out

by the powerful chorus of those who either ardently or restrainedly welcome the treaty. But let us "single out" these skeptical voices and hear what they have to say anyway. They mainly base their case on the fact that the step taken is clearly a modest one: After all, mankind is to be liberated from a mere 4% of all nuclear arms. But today's doubting Thomases should not forget that it would take only 5% of all nuclear arms to completely wipe out all life on earth.

The skeptics also say that the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles may not even be ratified. In this respect they refer to the generally dismal history of the SALT II Treaty and the collapse of the attempts to ratify it. One has to assume that "history will not repeat itself." The main reason it will not repeat itself is that the present treaty has the American people's backing. Addressing the National Press Club on Tuesday, Paul Nitze, special adviser to the President and secretary of state on arms control matters, asked: Why should the Senate give its seal of approval? He immediately answered this question himself: Because this treaty will strengthen the security of the United States and its allies.

We would add: It will also strengthen global security. It is no accident that most countries have reacted promptly and positively to the results of the meeting.

Yet there are certain grounds for concern nevertheless. There is sufficient evidence of this. Even the U.S. President himself—although he is basking as never before in the glory of his political success (THE WASHINGTON POST described his meeting with senators to assess the results of the talks as "a love-in")—told the Center for Strategic and International Studies that "there are a fair number of people in Western Europe and the United States itself who view this agreement with concern."

More below about those who are "concerned" in the West. For the present I will just say a little about the things which could also concern Soviet people. For example, the Soviet Union is scrapping just over double the amount of missiles and warheads to be eliminated in the United States. It is no accident that a public opinion poll carried out in Moscow—the results of which were published by PRAVDA last Thursday [17 December]—produced a generally positive but far from uniform result. Nevertheless, at the talks our country was not engaged in purely "numerically" calculating the correlation of forces for each separate type of weapon, or overplaying the "who got more out of the other" formula; rather it made the first move and ensured the beginning of real disarmament. This is to the Soviet Union's credit and represents a political and moral gain for it.

The new political thinking made an equally impressive showing at the meeting of Warsaw Pact leaders held in Berlin a week ago. Thoroughly assessing the importance and crucial nature of the present moment in mankind's history, they resolutely agreed to act in concert in the interests of disarmament and international cooperation.

Before our eyes the train of military and political detente, which has stood for so long in the sidings and even in an impasse, has reached the first station. We have begun the process of building a world free of nuclear weapons.

Who Is Concerned and Why [subhead]

Whenever long-standing stereotypes are broken, resistance from forces that link their political and material well-being with these stereotypes inevitably grows.

A few words about this material well-being. THE NEW YORK TIMES recently published an article with the telling headline "Arms Manufacturing Company Foresees Difficulties Because of Treaty." Stanley Pace, chairman and chief executive officer with the leading U.S. arms manufacturing corporation General Dynamics, the article says, claims that the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles will burden his company with "an excessive Russian presence" at its key enterprise in San Diego. One must suppose that this arms manufacturer does not only foresee trouble for himself because of monitoring procedures. He is most likely afraid of losing the fabulous profits his corporation has reaped from the arms race over the decades.

The prospect of real disarmament is likely to rob people like this of their sleep and their appetite, so to speak. What else will follow Soviet-American agreements to eliminate intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles and radically reduce strategic offensive weapons? Detente on the European continent?

Let us examine the course Europe's immediate future will probably take. The Warsaw Pact and NATO armies in Europe still have tactical nuclear weapons—strike aircraft, missiles, and nuclear artillery. These are mainly dual purpose systems which can take either conventional or nuclear ammunition. Following the Budapest program to reduce armed forces and nuclear and conventional arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, the socialist countries are proposing that dual purpose systems be reduced together with conventional weapons. This is precisely the subject of discussion in Vienna, where the mandate of future talks is being worked out. Although the meeting of representatives of the all-European conference states is currently in recess, a solution to the issue is not far off. All the preconditions exist for the talks to begin in the first half of 1988.

Is this not the reason why certain circles in the United States and other Western countries are urgently mobilizing? Their aim is to prevent any changes for the better. They are urging the President and his White House associates increasingly insistently "not to overstep the fatal mark." They are demanding the speediest adoption

of measures to "compensate" for the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles. How? There is more than enough advice on how to do this: New nuclear forces should be moved into Europe and brought up to its maritime borders, and the nuclear and other arms that are to remain in place should be modernized. They are spreading the rumor that the talks in Washington have removed the differences between the USSR and the United States regarding the "strategic defense initiative." Using this "interpretation" of SDI they are pushing for the development of an arms race in space.

We will not make unfounded statements—so here are the facts. We will begin with statements by overt enemies of detente.

The organization "Coalition for Peace Through Strength" recently held a ceremony—not just anywhere, but on Capitol Hill—to present a petition to the U.S. Senate in support of "Star Wars" and against the ABM Treaty. Each clause in this message from the "cold war" petitioners begins with the words "You have our support." So how do 1,002 retired die-hard Pentagon men intend to "support" or perhaps, forgive me, violate the Senate's will? They intend to give their support, if you please, in the matter of financing SDI; opposing the ratification of any disarmament agreement; and adopting a "national peace strategy from a position of strength." It cannot be denied that you will not get very far in detente with petitions like this!

The extremely conservative observer G. Will criticizes Americans for being "drunk on detente." But while criticizing he is also listening to hear whether the same notes are going to be sounded on the other side of the Atlantic.

In France an anonymous "well wisher" of West European security has compared the treaty to a "new Munich." This blasphemous aphorism has begun to make the rounds in the bourgeois press. When journalists asked Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to give his opinion on statements like this he said: "The comparison with Munich is simply absurd. The treaty signed in Washington is indisputably an important stage, I would even say a historic stage." At this point, however, touching on the role to be played by France, J. Chirac made it clear that its leadership is not planning to actively involve the country in the disarmament process.

It is against the background of this tone taken by the French leadership that political observers are stressing the recent intensity and "irreversibility" of FRG and French military integration. It must be said that even in the two countries concerned many political and social forces have a guarded, apprehensive attitude to this process. The German Social Democratic Party, the leading opposition party on the Rhine, recently criticized the plans of Bonn and Paris to create an air-launched nuclear cruise missile.

But let us return to the subject of our conversation. The right-wing press has launched flanking offensives against the treaty concluded in Washington. Thus, the West German BILD AM SONNTAG, conducting a interview with U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, persistently overplayed the question of the allegedly imminent "disengagement" of Europe and America. The London DAILY TELEGRAPH intimidatingly states that a "hole" has formed in the NATO defense system after the conclusion of the treaty.

And so on and so forth.

What is going on here, where are all these reservations, doubts, allusions, and warnings originating from? It is clear that, whoever started them, they express the viewpoint of circles for whom disarmament sticks in their craw. The Washington meeting in this sense is no exception—the same thing happened after Geneva and after Reykjavik.

But how can one fail to notice that the well-worn recording of confrontation is emitting a downright cacophony, tormenting the ears of those around. To rephrase the proverb, you can say that today even the piper cannot call any tune he wants. There has been an upward spiral in international life, and a very steep spiral, moreover. Nowadays anyone who acts contrary to the logic of the new political thinking inevitably loses touch with life's realities. There can be a debate about further disarmament agreements. Such debates can bear good fruit, as has happened in Washington, but engaging in mutual accusations and squabbling about who has beaten whom and who has outwitted whom is a fruitless unnecessary exercise. It is not for our time.

The Afghan Question [subhead]

On Tuesday the Soviet foreign minister received UN Deputy Secretary General D. Cordovez.

The name of Cordovez is well known to our readers. For several years he has been a mediator at the Afghan-Pakistani talks under way in Geneva. His present trip to Moscow was of considerable significance—questions associated with the speediest completion of the process of a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan were discussed.

In a conversation E.A. Shevardnadze stressed the readiness of the USSR and Afghanistan to promote the success of Cordovez' mission. The Soviet side is doing its utmost to promote a settlement that would make it possible to end the bloody internal conflict and prevent the possibility of it recurring.

"...We do not want and are not seeking a pro-Soviet regime in Afghanistan," M.S. Gorbachev stated at his recent press conference in Washington. "But the U.S. side must likewise say clearly that it is not seeking a

pro-American regime there. A government must be created in Afghanistan—free, nonaligned, and neutral—on the basis of reconciliation, the calculation and consideration of political realities, and cooperation and on the basis of a coalition of the various forces and their national reconciliation."

The address by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, delivered 30 November at the Loyah Jirgah in Kabul, is imbued with openness and goodwill. "National reconciliation," he said, "has become a reality." The events of the last week prove this. Prisoners amnestied by presidential decree are continuing to be liberated. A number of areas of the northern province of Balkh have been declared peace zones.

The topic of Afghanistan concerns Soviet people. It concerns those who have and are performing their international duty and those families who have experienced the grief of losing a son, a brother, or a husband. Therefore, while devoting all efforts to resolving the Afghan problem, we have a right to demand an honest position from the United States on this question. The deadline for the withdrawal of Soviet troops has been named—12 months—and it may be less, but withdrawal must begin at the same time as the cessation of arms aid and finances for the dushmans begins.

The Soviet people regard the Afghan people as a good neighbor and a friend. This was the case and this will be the case. Our traditional ties will develop and we will seek new forms for them. The 16 December conference in the CPSU Central Committee was devoted to precisely this—the development of direct patronage ties between Soviet republics and oblasts and Afghan provinces.

But let us return to Cordovez' mission. Informing the Soviet minister about his actions in preparing for the next round of Afghan-Pakistani talks, he expressed the hope that this will be the concluding round.

In any case, good luck!

USSR Paper Views INF Treaty Impact in Asia

PM221313 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 87 Second Edition p 3

[Observer Aleksandr Golts military-political review: "Asia: Rending the Fetters of Militarism"]

[Text] Over a week has already elapsed since the completion of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting, yet the flood of comments on its results is not diminishing. The public of the Soviet Union and the United States, the European countries, and the whole world is giving the highest assessments of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles.

The countries of Asia and the Pacific assess this truly historic document just as highly. Here are the opinions of two eminent politicians from these countries. In a speech in Parliament Indian Prime Minister R. Gandhi called the conclusion of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles a very important present-day event. Australian Foreign Minister W. Hayden described the signing of this agreement as "an event comparable with the biggest achievements in the history of civilization."

In these assessments we should see not only a display of emotion. These and other politicians are clearly aware of how great this treaty's importance is for the peoples' security. The treaty has become an obstacle on the path of the implementation of highly dangerous plans, including in the Asian and Pacific region.

Here are the facts. According to figures published by the U.S. State Department, the Pentagon as of now has 859 medium- and shorter-range missiles. Of these slightly more than half are in West Europe. Where did they intend to place the remainder? The missiles' range and their intended use for nuclear aggression make it possible to assert with great confidence that they wanted to station them in the Asian and Pacific region from where they could threaten the Soviet Union.

These plans have existed for a long time. Back in 1983 Admiral W. Crowe, who now heads the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated that the Pentagon intended to deploy these missiles in a Southeast Asian country. Later the British press made public a secret instruction from the U.S. Armed Forces Pacific command on the use of ground-launched cruise missiles in this region. The magazine AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY, which is close to the U.S. military department, even published a scheme reflecting plans for using these missiles to blockade international straits in the Far East.

Finally, this year, when talks on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles were in full swing, certain circles in the United States and Japan persistently defended the idea of deploying these nuclear missile weapons in Alaska. Need it be said what enormous harm would be done in that case to the security both of those countries against which these missiles would be targeted and those on whose territory they would be based.

The USSR was not trying to win points in a propaganda game but was noting the actual state of affairs when, taking into account the Asian states' concern, it stated that it was agreeing to the double-global-zero and sought to ensure that this idea was implemented.

It is natural that the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles should become the impetus to independent and most vigorous actions by the Asian states aimed at consolidating regional stability. The military-political situation in

individual regions of Asia is changing before our very eyes. Thus, for instance, a direct link can be traced between the policy of national conciliation actively pursued by the government of the PRK and Thailand's recent decision to withdrawal its troops from the border with the PRK.

The DPRK Government is not slackening its efforts aimed at a just settlement of the situation on the Korean peninsula. The Korean People's Army command recently announced the completion of the demobilization of 100,000 Korean People's Army servicemen. I remind you that Pyongyang took the decision on this unilateral step in the hope that it would serve as an incentive to a wide-scale gradual reduction of the armed forces of north and south.

Among these events an important place belongs to the recent Manila meeting of leaders of the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei, which belong to ASEAN. The leaders of this regional grouping did not limit themselves to expressing support for the Soviet-U.S. treaty in a special statement. Seeking to make their contribution to the cause of nuclear disarmament, they confirmed, in their final declaration, their intention to seek to create a nuclear-free zone in the region.

This desire is welcomed by all those who advocate the reduction and elimination of nuclear arsenals. Yet Washington has treated it in an overtly negative way. The paragraph on the nuclear-free zone included in the Manila declaration was greeted with a frankly sour expression in the United States. State Department spokesman P. Oakley, for instance, opined that the United States does not in principle approve of nuclear-free zones. Indeed, this question is a matter of principle for the administration. Attention was drawn by the fact that at the same time Oakley's chief, Secretary of State G. Shultz, also sharply opposed the idea of creating a nuclear-free corridor in central Europe.

U.S. officials state that nuclear-free zones are incompatible with the deterrent strategy. Why? Because this strategy, as is well known, is based on deploying nuclear weapons in other countries, in those close to the borders of the USSR and the other socialist states. The spread of nuclear-free zones most decisively narrows the opportunities for maneuvering nuclear forces. In this light the active resistance to the creation of a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Asia attests to the fact that U.S. militarist circles have by no means renounced their intentions to use the Pacific region as a nuclear bridgehead.

However regrettable it may be, it must be agreed that the recent pessimistic forecasts by the well-known U.S. military expert W. Arkin have a serious basis. Answering a question from the newspaper ASAHI about whether the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium- and shorter-range missiles would have any substantial influence on U.S. strategy in the Pacific, he replied that Pentagon officials could predict that. Moreover, the U.S. strategists' distorted logic can even impel them to build up other nuclear missile systems, that is to ensure a unique kind of "compensation" in the NATO manner, and to expand the scales of their provocative maneuvers.

This is not simply the hypothesis of a military expert. The scenario for a nuclear attack on regions of the Soviet Far East has been repeatedly rehearsed during U.S. troops' exercises in the region. We only have to recall the recent U.S. Air Force maneuvers over Hokkaido. All 50 of the F-16 fighter bombers stationed in Japan and carriers of nuclear weapons rehearsed the delivery of massive bombing attacks against enemy territory in the vicinity of Soviet borders. No less provocative were the naval maneuvers in the Bering Sea. In UPI's opinion, the main task of the naval grouping headed by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier "Enterprise" which took part in it was "to demonstrate the buildup of U.S. naval might in the North Pacific."

At the same time the United States is building up efforts to involve the Asian countries in its military programs. Thus, according to the newspaper YOMIURI, as early as January next year the Pentagon is counting on getting Japan's agreement to take part in the so-called "balanced technological initiative." It is a case of creating fundamentally new types of conventional armaments of enhanced precision and strike force. It is indicative that, in YOMIURI's opinion, with the aid of these weapons U.S. strategists are hoping to "fill the breaches" that in their opinion will be created by the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles.

The following fact also draws attention. On the threshold of the meeting in Manila the U.S. press published articles expressing highly "original" opinions as to the path that ASEAN should follow. "What ASEAN does not have and the European Community does have is NATO," THE WASHINGTON POST quoted some political scientist as saying. "Europeans do indeed have a sense of impending danger... But there there is no common denominator that could lend sufficient urgency to economic cooperation in the region." The advice is transparent to the utmost degree: Create a military alliance under Washington's auspices and everything will be OK with your economy.

Tokyo has assumed the role of the main champion of Western military-political interests in the region. Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita had talks with the ASEAN leaders in Manila. Even as he was setting out for the Philippine capital he made it unambiguously clear in an interview that he sees in the U.S. bases in the Philippines (and it is these bases which are preventing the creation of a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Asia) a "factor of stability."

To lend greater weight to his words the prime minister promised to render the ASEAN states aid worth 2 billion dollars. This money, of course, is needed by the association's states, which are experiencing economic difficulties. Yet these dollars are painfully reminiscent of the

Trojan horse which the Greeks, as is well known, brought "absolutely selflessly" as a gift for the Trojans. We know how that ended. Statements in the present Japanese premier's expatiations about how the ASEAN states are Japan's "natural allies" put us very much on guard. All this is reminiscent of a veiled appeal to follow in the wake of the policy pursued by Japan, which itself obediently follows Washington.

Takeshita's present mission is also reminiscent of the trip made by Kuranari, who until recently held the post of foreign minister. Early this year he visited several countries in the South Pacific, issuing many promises of economic aid there, at the same time billing [illegible]s a "guarantor of stability" in the region. [illegible]r maneuver with respect to ASEAN shows [illegible] the Japanese politicians have taken Washi[illegible] to turn Tokyo into its Asian proconsul. It loo[illegible] they have decided to supplement their economic influence in Asia with political influence and in the long-term military influence too, and thus guarantee that the countries of the region are included in the imperialist confrontationist strategy.

Two basic tendencies are fighting in the Asian political arena today. The first expresses the peoples' desire to rend the nuclear fetters preventing them from advancing to lasting stability and mutually advantageous cooperation. It is opposed by the other tendency, whose source is the forces which have grown accustomed to viewing all Asia's problems through the cross-wires of nuclear sights. Their influence should not be underestimated. They can undermine the shift that has emerged in the process of demilitarization of international relations. M.S. Gorbachev stressed that "it is very important now for everyone to promote the intensification of the positive trends and the consolidation of mutual understanding and cooperation." Only this approach can lead to the safeguarding [illegible]ce and security in Asia and the Pacific.

United States & Canada

Gorbachev Named TIME's Man of Year

LD270724 Moscow TASS in English 0718 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] New York December 27 TASS—TIME magazine has named Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, the man of the year for 1987.

He will appear on the cover of TIME's Man of the Year issue that will reach news stands on December 28, Monday. 32 million readers of this leading American weekly will have an opportunity to acquaint themselves with a biography of Mikhail Gorbachev illustrated with numerous colour and black-and-white photos.

By tradition, TIME selects as man of the year the person that most significantly influenced the course of world events in the preceding 12 months. "Gorbachev has helped nudge his country and Ronald Reagan off the path to nuclear destruction. True, the treaty scrapping intermediate-range missiles that was signed at the Washington summit is only a small diminution of the arms race. But it is beginning. The treaty just might lead to a more significant reduction in long-range nuclear weapons this year", TIME said.

Describing Gorbachev as a "dedicated Communist", TIME said that his reforms can no longer be dismissed and that they have given birth to hopes and expectations not only in the Soviet Union itself but all over the world.

The magazine ended Gorbachev's biography with the words that "a new kind of leader has risen in the Soviet Union, and a lesson for the West is that the old rules of dealing with the USSR are suddenly outdated".

Shevardnadze, U.S. Envoy Discuss Contacts

LD261134 Moscow TASS in English 1122 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 26 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, foreign minister of the USSR, today received Jack Matlock, ambassador of the United States to the USSR.

Eduard Shevardnadze and Jack Matlock discussed issues of Soviet-U.S. bilateral relations in the light of the accords reached at top level in Washington and also some international matters. The sides reached an understanding in principle on forthcoming Soviet-U.S. contacts at foreign ministers' level.

Kornilov Criticizes U.S. Comments on Afghanistan

LD241628 Moscow TASS in English 1529 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 24 TASS—Follows commentary by Yuriy Kornilov, a TASS political news analyst:

The more obvious it is becomming that the process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan is gaining momentum, the more persistently the demand is voiced in the international arena for a just political settlement of the Afghan problem, the more insidious methods are employed by the opponents of such a settlement. One of them is an attempt to picture things in such a way as if the settlement of the problem depends on anyone except Washington. Many international observers have drawn attention, for example, to the fact that the recent report by the U.S. State Department on the situation in Afghanistan carefully evades the question of U.S. weapons supplies to the gangs of counter-revolutionaries. This is not our war, Robert Flaten, a spokesman for the State Department, said at the USIA press-centre, touching upon the situation in Afghanistan and around it.

For what simpletons are claims of this kind designed? Has international public forgotten how, acting on Washington's direct instructions and under the CIA's tutelage, tens of camps and bases were set up in Pakistan's territory where counter-revolutionary elements are being formed, trained and armed to this day? It is common knowledge that over the four-year period from 1983 to 1987 the USA set aside the vast sum of more than one billion dollars on kindling the war in Afghanistan. What is Washington's response to Kabul's peace-making efforts, to its policy towards putting an end to bloodshed and the vigorous and constructive search for ways towards peace and tranquility on the soil of Afghanistan? Its answer was the anti-aircraft Stinger missiles, by means of which the terrorists trained by American instructors bring down civilian planes, the supplies of other advanced weapons to the counter-revolutionaries, the stepped up psychological warfare against Afghanistan and the USSR, the mass misinformation campaign, the setting up and equipping of sabotage squads in Pakistan's territory. These are also attempts each time when progress begins to manifest itself at the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva being conducted through the agency of the U.N. deputy secretary general to put up artificial obstacles in the way towards the success of the talks.

The cobbling together of armed gangs with the CIA's assistance, by means of which the U.S. ruling circles are trying to interfere crudely in the affairs of the sovereign state, is no new method to Washington. The same method is employed by the United States also in other regions, let us say, to carry on the "undeclared war" against Nicaragua. The row around the so-called Irangate affair has brought to light the methods by means of which the Washington strategists, who flout even the laws of the United States, finance and arm the mercenaries. All that is an epitome of the Washington-construed neoglobalism doctrine in action, the doctrine basing themselves on which its inventors wish, albeit in vain, to force on the sovereign independent states an order and system welcome and advantageous to them.

So Mr. Flaten is not candid when touching upon the situation in Afghanistan he claims that, as he put it, "this

is not our war". No, the war in Afghanistan is precisely an American war. It is the Washington neoglobalists and no one else who unleashed it. It is precisely them who are piling up obstacles today in the way of a political settlement of the Afghan problem. Otherwise why the world has not heard until now a positive response to the question on whose solution the settlement of this problem depends in a large measure, whether the USA, considering the existing realities, will end the funding and arming of counter-revolutionaries at least simultaneously with the start of return of the Soviet troops home?

U.S.-Iranian Gulf Incident Reported

LD241434 Moscow TASS in English 1414 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] New York December 24 TASS—Speedboats sprayed machinegun fire at a U.S. military helicopter in the southern part of the Persian Gulf today, UPI news agency reported.

According to UPI, the speedboats belonged to Iran.

The helicopter was heading for a Liberian-flag tanker that was reportedly threatened by a speedboat attack.

The helicopter made a maneuver and touched down safely on the deck of the U.S. guided missile frigate "Irod" None of the helicopter's crew-members was injured.

Material on Gorbachev Summit Visit Published

LD251958 Moscow TASS in English 1826 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 25 TASS—A collection of material connected with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the United States on December 7 through 10, 1987, has been brought out here.

Friendship Society Welcomes INF Treaty

LD252043 Moscow TASS in English 2007 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 25 TASS—The Soviet public considers the signing of the treaty eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles to be an event of history-making significance. This is pointed out in the statement issued by the Union of Soviet Friendship and Cultural Relations Societies With the Foreign Countries. It expresses full approval of the results of the visit of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the United States and his talks with U.S. President Reagan. We favour the speediest ratification of the treaty and express the hope that U.S. public will actively contribute towards that.

China

Gorbachev Plans Visit to PRC 'Next Year'

LD251202 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1135 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Beijing, December 25 (TANJUG)—Soviet circles in Beijing today claim that Soviet party leader Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Beijing next year, or in early 1988 [as received] at the latest. The sources cite Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev who recently visited Beijing.

As far as it is known, Gorbachev has not yet received an official invitation to visit China. However, a statement to this effect by Central Military Commission President Deng Xiaoping is deemed virtually the equivalent to an invitation.

Deng has stated that he would like to meet with Gorbachev, but noted that Moscow should first influence Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea.

At a recent news conference in the Soviet Embassy, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev decisively said that the Soviet Union will not accept any preconditions to a possible meeting between Deng and Gorbachev. Rogachev expressed the Soviet side's interest in the Deng-Gorbachev meeting and said that he viewed with optimism the possibilities for such a meeting.

The Soviet source in Beijing claims that prior to Gorbachev's arrival in Beijing, the question of Kampuchea will already be solved.

For the full normalization of relations with the Soviet Union, China continues to demand the removal of the three so-called barriers—the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Chinese-Soviet border, and, as the most important, that the Soviet Union influence Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea as soon as possible, and that the other two obstacles would be a topic for discussion with Gorbachev.

PRC Denies U.S. Charge of Arms Sales to Iran

OW271101 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0300 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] China refutes U.S. allegation about China's supply of C-801 type modern missiles to Iran, said a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman in Beijing on 26 December. He pointed out that the allegation about China's direct or indirect arms supply to Iran is totally unfounded. The Chinese Government has repeatedly stated that it does not sell arms to any party involved in an armed conflict.

Northeast Asia

Shevardnadze, DPRK's Yong-nam Hold Talks

PM241203 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Conversation in the USSR Foreign Ministry"]

[Text] E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, met 23 December with Kim Yong-nam, member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Politburo, vice premier of the DPRK Administration Council, and foreign minister, who stopped over in Moscow on his way home.

During the conversation, which took place in a comradely and businesslike atmosphere, E.A. Shevardnadze reported on the main results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Washington, stressing its beneficial effect on the world political climate.

Kim Yong-nam noted that the Workers Party of Korea and the DPRK Government see the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles as the first real step on the path to nuclear disarmament which will also assist the struggle to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. The minister stressed that the Soviet Union can count on the DPRK's support in its struggle to eliminate the nuclear threat and to create a nuclear-free world.

The foreign ministers were unanimous in their assessment of the fruitful nature of Soviet-Korean cooperation. The USSR and the DPRK are fully determined to strengthen mutually advantageous cooperation in all spheres in the spirit of the accords between Comrades M.S. Gorbachev and Kim Il-song in Moscow in October 1986.

E.A. Shevardnadze stated that the Soviet Union will continue to vigorously support socialist Korea's course aimed at reducing the military and political tension on the peninsula and continuing constructive dialogue between North and South as well as the DPRK's proposals for the transformation of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and for a large-scale gradual reduction of the armed forces in North and South Korea.

Soviet Olympic Officials Arrive in DPRK 27 Dec

SK271109 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 1000 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] A four-member Soviet National Olympic Committee delegation arrived in our country at 1240 this afternoon to hold preliminary working-level discussions on the [Soviet Union's] participation in the Seoul Olympics. It was learned that the delegation led by Vyacheslav Gavrilin, vice chairman of the Soviet National Olympic Committee, will stay in Seoul for 3 nights and 4 days and will discuss working issues, including transportation of the [Soviet] athletic team, with the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee and other relevant institutions.

It is noteworthy that the Soviet delegation is now visiting Korea amid expectations that the Soviet Union's official announcement on its plan to participate in the Seoul Olympics is imminent following the official announcements by Hungary and East Germany, the first among the communist-bloc countries to announce their plans to participate in the Seoul Olympics.

Previously, for a week, beginning 26 July, the Soviet Union sent a nine-member delegation led by A. Kolesov, vice chairman of the State Sports Committee, to hold working-level discussions.

The Soviet delegation will leave the country on 30 December.

Pentagon Delegation To Visit Japan Jan 1988

LD251758 Moscow TASS in English 1705 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 25 Tass—TASS commentator Andrey Kamarin writes:

Those forces in the United States, which are on the look out for the opportunities to "compensate" for the intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles subject to destruction under the Soviet-U.S. INF Treaty signed in Washington, are setting their sights at Japan. By the way, they pin hopes both on Japan's technological potential and its financial involvement.

There are concrete facts to support this conclusion. A new delegation of Pentagon experts specializing in military technology will pay a visit to Japan on January 11-19, 1988. On the programme of the visit are consultations with National Defence Agency officials and also the visit to seven Japanese research centers, the companies "Sony", "Fuji Jukogio", "Shinnippon Seitetsu" and others.

The Americans make no secret of the purpose of the trip: To steer the Japanese-U.S. agreement on the exchange in the most advanced technologies of 1983 into a stable channel of implementation. By the way, the notion "exchange" is of clearly symbolic nature in this case since the U.S. envoys intend to center on obtaining stable access to the results of Japan's research and development work. Emphasis, judging by everything is intended to be placed on purely military research as well as on the so-called double-use technology within whose category it is possible to put virtually any efforts in the field of electronics, mechanical engineering, heavy machine-building, aircraft building and space industry.

It is evident that the military-technological aspects of cooperation between the United States and Japan go beyond the framework of bilateral relations. By joining

the Pentagon's military programmes in circumvention of its own principles regulating the export of weapons, Tokyo actually assumes part of the responsibility for the ongoing arms race and spurs destabilization of the situation in the Far East.

Further moves to intensify the military efforts by Japan itself cannot help giving rise to anxiety among the public of the Asia Pacific countries. The intention by Japan's leadership to authorize military spending in next year's budget in excess of one per cent of the gross national products is the reflection of this dangerous tendency.

Such steps can hardly be seen as constructive and consistent with the spirit of our time when the prospect for building a nuclear-free and non-violent world acquires real outlines. The first successes in scaling down tension and ridding mankind of the burden of huge weapons arsenals is a very fragile thing. For them to grow solid and be further augmented, it is essential to pool the efforts of all countries and peoples. Any action which plays up to militarism and the arms race can have most unpredictable consequences. The responsibility and realism of states which have an especially important role to play on the political scene, Japan being certainly among them, should be manifest in the age of ours in preventing them.

Japan, USSR Reach Fishing Operations Agreement
OW260025 Tokyo KYODO in English 0003 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, Dec. 25 KYODO—Japan and the Soviet Union reached a broad agreement Friday on their fishing operations in each other's 200-mile zone in 1988.

According to the agreement, the two countries will be allowed to catch 210,000 tons of fish in each other's 200-mile zone free of charge next year, up 10,000 tons each from this year.

In addition to the free-of-charge quota, Japan will be permitted to catch 100,000 tons in 1988 by paying a fishing cooperation fee amounting to 1.71 billion yen to the Soviet Union. The 1988 fishery cooperation fee represents an increase of 420 million yen from this year's 1.29 billion yen.

The two countries will sign a formal agreement Monday, according to Japanese officials.

The agreement calls for Japanese trawlers operating in the pacific off the Kuril Islands and in waters off Eastern Sakhalin to enter these areas through designated checkpoints. They will also be required to pass through the checkpoints when they leave the waters for home.

The Japanese officials said this measure is designed to prevent "llegal" fishing operations by Japanese trawlers in the Soviet 200-mile zone.

The Japanese side also agreed to allow Soviet fishing boats to make calls at a Japanese port on the Pacific coast.

The name of the port will be notified to the Soviet side at a later date, they said.

The agreement also stipulates that bottom trawling in waters between Sakhalin and Hokkaido will be prohibited next year and that the number of Japanese fishing boats operating in the Soviet 200-mile zone will be limited to 1,520 against this year's 1,600.

Fishing boats of the two countries will begin operations January 1.

Friday's broad agreement capped on-and-off negotiations between the two countries which began in Moscow November 24.

The negotiations were prolonged due to a wide gap between the Japanese and Soviet views on the amount of the fishery cooperation fee.

Japan initially offered to pay 1.16 billion yen next year while the Soviet side demanded payment of 2.35 billion yen. The two sides finally compromised on the figure of 1.71 billion yen.

Japanese Oppose Supporting U.S. Forces in Japan
OW270308 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] According to a report from a TASS correspondent in Tokyo, the result of a public-opinion poll conducted by YOMIURI SHIMBUN has revealed that the greater part of the Japanese people do not support the government's policy of expanding a military and political alliance with the United States. Many respondents to a questionnaire clearly expressed their opposition to a government plan to further increase Japan's share of the upkeep cost for the U.S. Forces in Japan, which already costs Y250 billion annually.

Anti-U.S. Base Demonstration in Okinawa
OW270332 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] A demonstration against U.S. military bases has been eld in Naha, the capital of Japan's Okinawa Prefecture. The demonstrators were demanding the adoption of a declaration designating Okinawa as nuclear-free.

USSR, Japan Ratify Cultural Exchange Pact

OW270036 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] According to TASS Tokyo, Soviet Ambassador to Japan Solovyev and Japanese Foreign Minister Uno exchanged in Tokyo yesterday ratifications of an Agreement on Cultural Exchanges Between the USSR and Japan.

The agreement was signed earlier in Moscow on 31 December 1986.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

KGB's Chebrikov Visits Vietnam, Laos

Arrives in Ho Chi Minh City

LD241938 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1452 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Ho Chi Minh, 24 Dec (TASS)—V.M. Chebrikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR's KGB, who is in Vietnam on an official friendly visit, arrived in the city of Ho Chi Minh today.

At the airport he was met by the leaders of that largest city of socialist Vietnam.

The Soviet guest visited the memorial house-museum of the great son of the Vietnamese people, the founder of the Communist Party of Vietnam and first president of the republic, Ho Chi Minh, and familiarized himself in detail with the exhibits and signed the book of honored guests. Accompanied by the leaders of the city, he then toured the sights of Ho Chi Minh.

Visits Hanoi CP Officials

LD242121 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 24 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today Comrade Chebrikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the KGB of the USSR, who is staying on an official friendly visit in Vietnam, visited the Hanoi Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV]. Nguyen Than Binh, member of the CPV Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Hanoi Municipal CPV Committee, informed him of the efforts of Communists and the working people of the capital aimed at developing production, tackling social and cultural matters, and implementing the tasks set out by the Sixth CPV Congress. The meeting took place in a frank and friendly atmosphere. Comrade Chebrikov has left Hanoi for a trip around the country.

SRV Visit Rounded Up

PM281425 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Unity, Cohesion"]

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, 27 Dec—V.M. Chebrikov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR KGB, was on an official friendly visit to Vietnam 21-27 December at the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and the SRV Government.

During the visit V.M. Chebrikov met with Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, and Pham Hung, member of the Politburo of the CPV Central Committee and chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers. During conversations with the Vietnamese leaders, questions of bilateral relations and the international situation were discussed in a spirit of comradely frankness. Satisfaction was expressed with the present level of cooperation between the USSR and the SRV in various areas, and mutual interest was voiced in boosting the efficiency and finding new forms of Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation that take account of both countries' features and capabilities.

The sides confirmed their full support for the PRK Government's policy of national reconciliation, whose aim is to safeguard the interests of the Cambodian people and regional peace, stability, and good-neighborliness.

During his stay in the SRV, V.M. Chebrikov held talks with Mai Chi Tho, member of the Politburo of the CPV Central Committee and SRV minister of internal affairs, during which there was an exchange of opinions on issues of mutual interest.

V.M. Chebrikov and the officials accompanying him visited Ho Chi Minh City and had a meeting with city leaders. The meeting took place in a spirit of fraternity and mutual understanding.

V.M. Chebrikov left Vietnam for Laos today. At Ho Chi Minh Airport, he was seen off by Mai Chi Tho, city leaders, and other officials. D.I. Kachin, USSR ambassador to the SRV, was among the send-off party.

Arrives in Laos

LD270851 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0710 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Vientiane, 27 Dec (TASS)—At the invitation of the LPRP [Lao People's Revolutionary Party] Central Committee and the LPDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] Government, V.M. Chebrikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and KGB chairman, today arrived in Vientiane on an official friendly visit. At the airport he was welcomed by Siphandon Khamtai, Politburo member, secretary of the LPRP

Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and LPDR defense minister; Asang Laoli, LPDR acting interior minister, Khamphai Boupha, LPDR first deputy foreign minister; and other officials. The welcoming party included Yu.Ya. Mikheyev, USSR ambassador to the LPDR.

Holds Talks With Phomvihan

LD271404 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1315 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Vientiane, 27 Dec (TASS)—V.M. Chebrikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR KGB, who is on an official friendly visit to Laos, was today received by Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] Council of Ministers.

During the meeting, which passed in a cordial and comradely atmosphere, topical international problems were discussed. The development of Soviet-Lao links and activities of the CPSU and PRPL and cooperation between them were topics of discussion.

V.M. Chebrikov talked about the revolutionary transformations taking place in the USSR and described the present stage of restructuring.

Exchanging views on matters pertaining to international affairs, it was stressed that the outcome of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting and the signing in Washington of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles are of fundamental importance not only for the interests of the USSR and the United States but also for consolidating peace and ensuring security in the Asia-Pacific Ocean region on the basis of a comprehensive approach to resolving that problem.

The sides expressed satisfaction with the steady and progressive development of relations between the USSR and the LPDR in all areas. They also confirmed their mutual striving toward further reinforcing the unity and cohesion of the countries of the socialist community, and of the coordination of their actions in the crucial period humanity is now going through.

The conversation was held in the presence of Khamtai Siphandon, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PRPL Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of defense of the SPDR; Asang Laoli, member of the PRPL Central Committee and acting minister of internal affairs of the LPDR; other Lao officials, and Yu.Ya. Mikheyev, Soviet ambassador to the LPDR.

DRA's Najibullah on 'Friendly Visit' to Vietnam

Nguyen Van Linh Speaks

LD252243 Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Hanoi December 25 TASS—The Afghan party and government delegation led by the country's President Najibullah has arrived on an official friendly visit in the Vietnamese capital today.

Addressing a reception in honour of the president of Afghanistan, Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, pointed out the great successes of the Afghan people in economic and cultural construction, in the fight against the intrigues of imperialism and reaction, which are waging an undeclared war against the republic. He declared full support by the Communist Party of Vietnam, the government and people of Vietnam for the policy of national reconciliation pursued in Afghanistan, and expressed confidence of its success.

The leaders of the two countries unanimously welcomed the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles signed during the Soviet-American summit meeting in Washington. They pointed out in their speeches that the treaty was an outcome of the tireless efforts by the USSR and the other socialist countries aimed at creating an all-embracing international security system, at delivering the world from the nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union's constructive initiatives spelled out by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his speech in Vladivostok, the principles placed on record in the Delhi Declaration contribute towards creating an atmosphere of trust in the world, show ways towards the resolution of regional conflicts.

Najibullah spoke highly of the efforts made by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea for strengthening peace and security, developing goodneighbourly cooperation in South East Asia, for ending bloodshed in Kampuchea. "We fully support the national reconciliation policy proclaimed by the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and welcome its first results," he stressed. "We can say from our experience that this policy is the sole alternative to war and the main prerequisite for national renaissance."

Talks Continue in Hanoi

LD261733 Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Hanoi December 26 (TASS)—Talks were held here today between Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) and President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan who is currently in Vietnam on an official friendly visit.

Taking part in the talks on the Vietnamese side were Vo Chi Cong, member of the political bureau of the CPV Central Committee, president of the Council of State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) and other leaders of the country, and on the Afghan side—'Abdul Wakil, the republic's minister of foreign affairs, and other persons accompanying the president.

Nguyen Van Linh and Najibullah were gratified to state successful development of relations between Vietnam and Afghanistan, and voiced confidence that the current visit would promote stronger friendship, cohesion, and cooperation between the peoples of the two states.

The president of Afghanistan informed the other side of the course of the implementation of the national reconciliation policy which had become a major factor in the stabilisation of the situation in the country. The Vietnamese side expressed full support for the policy, and pointed out that it was the only reasonable alternative to war and bloodshed.

The participants in the talks declared for further rallying all peace-loving and progressive peoples in the world in the work for an end to the arms race, for disarmament, for a peaceful settlement of regional conflicts, and for reliable ensurance of peace and security throughout the world.

The results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Washington were highly appreciated in this connection. It was emphasized that the signed Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, and other results of the summit created favourable conditions for further headway along the road of cutbacks in nuclear arsenals, for the removal of the war threat which hangs over mankind, for the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security, and for the building of a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world.

When discussing other international and regional issues, the sides expressed full support, in particular, for the national reconciliation policy being pursued by the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in the interests of a peaceful and just settlement of the Kampuchean question.

They reaffirmed their striving for the establishment of relations of friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding with neighbouring states, and emphasized that Vietnam and Afghanistan would continue to make efforts to ensure peace, security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the world.

Leaders Address Mass Meeting

LD271510 Moscow TASS in English 1325 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Hanoi December 27 TASS—A mass meeting of Vietnamese-Afghan friendship was held at the Hanoi Trade Union Palace of Culture today. It was held in connection with the official friendly visit to Vietnam of a party and state delegation of Afghanistan, led by President of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah. It was attended by General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Van Linh, member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, Chairman of the State Council Vo Chi Cong, and other party leaders and statesmen.

Opening the meeting, Vo Chi Cong expressed confidence that the Afghan leader's visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam would further develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee Tran Tan who was next to take the floor underlined that the visit became a striking manifestation of spirited solidarity and fraternal friendship between the Vietnamese and Afghan peoples. It will make an active contribution to consolidation of peace and security, development of cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Friendship, cooperation and fraternal internationalist solidarity between the two countries, Najibullah said at the meeting, play a major role in intensifying peoples' struggle for independence and progress. The negotiations with leaders of Vietnam, held during the visit, promoted broader mutual understanding and lent a fresh impetus to the development of relations between our countries and peoples.

Touching upon the course of implementation of the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan, the speaker said that it had received a broad response in the country and enjoyed support of all progressive forces in the world. Though this policy encounters considerable difficulties, caused by the continuing subversive activity of imperialist and reactionary forces, the idea of national reconciliation is approved by the Afghan people.

News Conference Held

LD271601 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1423 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Hanoi, 27 Dec (TASS)—A news conference was held here today by DRA President Najibullah.

During the Vietnam-Afghan talks in Hanoi, the Afghan leader noted, the sides expressed their support for the peace initiatives consistently being advanced by the Soviet Union, aimed at freeing the planet of nuclear weapons. The results of the Soviet-U.S. summit in Washington and the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles are an important step on the path to disarmament.

Describing the situation in Afghanistan, Najibullah stressed the importance of implementing the national reconciliation policy. There is no other alternative in settling the situation surrounding Afghanistan except expanding dialogue and cooperation among the different forces. In touching on the Afghan-Pakistani talks in

Geneva, the Afghan leader expressed the hope that, thanks to the constructive stand being taken by Afghanistan, the next round would be the decisive and conclusive one: It is now up to the Pakistani side. The refusal of a number of opposition groups to take part in the dialogue, in the national reconciliation process, only means they are incapable of appraising the situation in the country realistically, of seeing the aspiration of the Afghan people, who are striving for peace. The responsibility in all its entirety for the continuation of the bloodshed will lie on them, said the Afghan leader.

Developing Soviet-U.S. dialogue is an important factor in resolving the Afghan question, noted Najibullah. He expressed the hope that the U.S. Administration will realize that each nation has the right to an independent choice of its path of development.

Cooperation Treaty Signed

LD280455 Moscow TASS in English 0451 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Hanoi December 28 TASS—A treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Afghanistan has been signed in the Vietnamese capital today. The signatures under the treaty have been put by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan. Later in the day today the Afghan party and state delegation currently on an official friendly visit in Vietnam left for a tour of the country.

Korolov Comments on Next Sihanouk-Hun Meeting

BK260609 Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia 1330 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Commentary by Vladimir Korolov]

[Text] It is true that the Cambodian problem and the conflict in Southeast Asia, created by those who are not pleased with the current development in Cambodia, can only be resolved peacefully through negotiations. The PRK Government, supported by Vietnam and Laos, adheres to a national reconciliation policy aimed at rallying all Cambodians regardless of their past and political stand.

Phnom Penh's initiative has resulted in a meeting between Comrade Hun Sen, head of the Cambodian Government, and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, leader of an opposing Cambodian group. The talks between the two personalities, held in early December, provided happiness to those who are really interested in seeing stability being quickly restored on the vast Asian Continent. The Cambodian leadership considered this meeting a historic event and a step torward resolving the Cambodian problem politically.

However, not long after that, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk informed Comrade Hun Sen that he would hold no more talks unless the other two opposing Cambodian groups participated. One of these is the Pol Pot group led by Khieu Samphan, and the other is the so-called Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

Now Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has reconsidered his conditions. Samdech Sihanouk said he changed his attitude after criticism from ASEAN leaders at a recent conference in Manila. According to the latest information available, the next meeting between Comrade Hun Sen and Samdech Sihanouk will take place on 27 January in France, like the first meeting. The evolution of events relating to Cambodia shows that in international affairs, a new way of thinking is emerging that takes into account realities of the current situation.

Lao's Phomvihan Briefed on Summit Results

PM241209 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Soviet-Lao Consultations"]

[Text] Ventiane, 20 Dec—Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and chairman of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, received B.N. Chaplin, special representative of the Soviet leadership and USSR deputy foreign minister, today. K. Phomvihan was familiarized with the results of the Washington meeting between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President R. Reagan.

K. Phomvihan expressed full support for the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit, especially the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium and Shorter-Range Missiles on behalf of the LPRP Central Committee, the government, and the Lao people. The results of the meeting open up new opportunities in the struggle for peace and the resolution of contentious issues by means of talks. The conclusion of the treaty is a historic event because it constitutes a real accord on the path of nuclear disarmament, made possible thanks to the emergence of the new political thinking, the Lao leader pointed out. He stated Laos' full support for the Soviet Union's efforts aimed at establishing a lasting, all-embracing peace. K. Phomvihan stressed the determination of the Lao People's Democratic Republic together with the SRV and the PRK to continue to make their contribution to ensuring security and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and jointly seeking ways for a political settlement of existing conflicts there.

Phoun Sipaseut, member of the LPRP Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Lao foreign minister, and other Lao officials took part in the conversation.

The conversation took place in an atmosphere of friendship and complete mutual understanding.

Near East & South Asia

Gorbachev Reportedly To Visit Syria in January

JN271236 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 25 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-BAYAN has learned that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will pay an official visit to Damascus in late January in response to an invitation Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad extended to him earlier this year.

Heavy Fighting Reported in DRA Khowst Operation

LD241912 Moscow TASS in English 1826 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul December 24 TASS—By TASS correspondent German Baykov:

The national reconciliation process, which is gaining momentum in the Republic of Afghanistan, is encountering a number of difficulties. Heavy fighting is raging in Khowst District against the counter-revolutionary elements blocking that eastern part of Afghanistan. After the 20 day period granted by the government for reflection, Jalaluddin, the commander of the forces of the extremists, rejected, acting on the orders of his patrons from abroad, the peaceful proposal to let columns of trucks carrying foods to the area of Khowst.

At present the offensive against the fortified areas of the counter-revolutionaries is proceeding along two directions—from the cities of Khowst and Gardiz. Hundreds of bandits have been put out of action. Yet the counter-revolutionaries are continuing resistance. There is practically not a single section free of mines along the many kilometre long road, which is under the control of the Dzadran tribe.

According to reports from the area of hostilities, large numbers of foreign military advisors, including from the USA and Pakistan, have arrived there in recent days. The counter-revolutionaries are supported by up to 200 Pakistani malishas (fighting men of border guard units), and Pakistani servicemen from special units in disguise. Regular troops have been sent to the border from Pakistan.

In answer to Jalaluddin's call for help, other bandit elements of various political orientation are being sent there. The bandits have been ordered to destroy the families of those who refuse to participate in the armed struggle.

Yet far from all even extremist groups support the counter-revolutionaries of Khowst. A group of students of Pakistan's religious educational establishments arrived the other day in the area where the forces of Jalaluddin are stationed. Yet the future clergymen returned to Pakistan after finding out the situation in place.

Reports on the successful implementation of the reconciliation policy are coming from various parts of Afghanistan. As the BAKHTAR agency said, 180 persons have returned to Herat and Nangarhar provinces from Pakistan and Iran. In the past they left their homeland by force of different circumstances. Two armed groups ceased their senseless resistance in Baghlan and Faryab provinces.

U.S. 'Adviser' Killed

LD272011 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1858 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, 27 Dec (TASS)—The offensive aimed at clearing the district of Khowst of dushmans has been developing successfully, Lieutenant General Mohammad Nabi Azimi, first deputy minister of defense, said speaking today at a briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. The government troops, possessing a four-time advantage in manpower, are making progress forward. The areas of Shwak, Mirajan, Waza, Saydkhel, Largi, Dwamande have been cleared. The government troops involved in clearing the road Gardez-Khowst of dushmans have 9 kilometers more to go, he reported. As the road and the adjoining areas are liberated, engineering corps units repair the road surface, restore bridges and other installations.

The enemy's losses have amounted to 1500 of those who were killed, wounded, taken prisoner or deserted. At least one U.S. adviser is among the dead. Captured and destroyed were 29 heavy machine-guns with 170,000 rounds of ammunition, 30 surface-to-surface missile launchers, 18 anti-aircraft mountainous [as received] guns and 80 cartridges for them, 5 "Stinger" sets, 6 "Blowpipe" sets, 10 recoilless guns and 60,000 shells for them, 40 mortars and 12,000 mines for them, 20 grenade-launchers and 50,000 shells for them, 45 anti-tank missile launchers, firearms, 1,780,000 cartridges, and 42 depots with various military equipment. As the areas that previously were held by the dushmans are liberated, the counterrevolution has been hurriedly trying to transport vast amounts of weapons and ammunition to safe shelters.

M.N. Azimi reiterated the fact that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan had first tired to resolve the issue of opening the Gardez-Showst road with peaceful means. In accordance with a proposal by delegates of the Loya Jirgah, a 20-day ceasefire was announced. The extremists, however, did not want to stop the bloodshed. If in the beginning of the operation the armed formations of the counterrevolution numbered 30 groups with the total strength of 2,000 people, after the 20-day ceasefire the number of groups increased to 50, and the strength of the extremists—to 4,000. The Pakistani militiamen have been acting on their side, and so have 50 foreign advisors. The counterrevolution, M.N. Azimi said, planned to separate the district of Khowst from Afghanistan, to set up some sort of "provisional government" there and to transform that area into a supply

base for the counterrevolutionary forces throughout the country. Following the 20-days break, when the extremists rejected all offers of peace, the government troops resumed the offensive that has been developing successfully.

Alleged FRG Agent Captured in Afghanistan

LD262041 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 24 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast, report from Afghanistan by correspondent Mikhail Leshchinskiy—recorded]

[Text] New facts of interference in the affairs of Afghanistan—here is a report from our correspondent:

[Begin correspondent Mikhail Leshchinksiy recording] The republic of Afghanistan maintains diplomatic relations with more than 80 countries of the world. Here, in the diplomatic quarter of Kabul, various diplomatic representations and consular services function normally. Many Western journalists and businessmen come to Afghanistan. However, at the same time, cases of direct interference and violations of the sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan are constantly increasing, too.

According to data which are far from complete, this year alone, since the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation, citizens of 11 foreign states have illegally penetrated the territory of 29 provinces of Afghanistan and the district of Khowst. Various instructors from the United States, France, the FRG, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Egypt, and Great Britain are directing the combat operations of the extremists and participating directly in the preparation and execution of terrorist acts, diversions, and the blackmailing of peaceful inhabitants. I remind you that all these states have diplomatic relations with Afghanistan.

Often that provocative activity ends within the walls of the investigatory solitary confinement of Afghanistan's state security bodies. This is what happened to Osman Demir, a citizen of the FRG and a Turk by origin. He was handed over to the competent bodies by an armed formation in Qandahar Province, which decided to cease combat operations and go over to the side of the central authorities. It is clear from evidence which was presented, written in his own hand, that Osman Demir, 23, is an employee of West German Military Intelligence, the MAD. He arrived in Pakistan with a letter of recommendation from the service, whence he was taken by leaders of the Afghan counterrevolution to Afghanistan to instruct the dushmans in terrorist activity, gathering of intelligence information, and agency recruitment. One of Demir's main tasks was intensive instruction in using Stinger and Blowpipe antiaircraft missiles against the planes of Afghanistan. He testified that he personally had trained over 70 such specialists and taken part repeatedly in missile launchings, the victims of which, as is known, were primarily peaceful passengers. He himself studied this science in the West German town of Augsberg, under the direction of one Mr (Horstmann).

The investigations into Osman Demir and several others Western experts are continuing. Soon they will appear before the judicial organs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

BAKHTAR: Interference Continues

LD251234 Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul December 25 TASS—Despite the repeated initiatives of the Afghan Government to normalise the situation inside the country within the framework of the national reconciliation policy, the undisguised interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by foreign states and by their secret services is being continued, says a statement issued by the BAKHTAR news agency. The statement has been circulated here.

The so-called advisers—military instructors and specialists whose activities bring new destruction, tears and bloodshed to the long-suffering Afghan land—are infiltrated into the country's territory.

A group of insurgents took the side of people's power in Qandahar Province recently under the impact of the national reconciliation policy. The group handed over to competent bodies a certain Osman Demir, an instructor in sabotage and terrorist activities.

Osman Demir said during the investigation that he is a citizen of the Federal Republic of Germany and is an agent of West German Secret Services. Upon having illegally crossed into Afghan territory from Pakistan, he had engaged in training insurgents in terrorist activity, had gathered reconnaissance information, and had recruited agents among Afghans.

One of the main tasks of the "expert" was to train counter-revolutionaries in using Stinger anti-aircraft missiles against the aviation of the Republic of Afghanistan. Demir said he personally had taken part in Stinger launchings which old men, women and children are known to have fallen victim to.

The BAKHTAR news agency is authorized to state that the ongoing subversive activity against the Republic of Afghanistan on the part of the secret services of Western countries is an evidence of hostile forces' intentions to frustrate the national process to which there is no other alternative in the country. Such actions will be stopped most resolutely, and the entire responsibility for possible consequences rests with their organizers, the news agency emphasised.

BAKHTAR Communique on Afghan Issue Cited

LD271356 Moscow TASS in English 1334 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul December 27 TASS—The undeclared war against the Afghan people has been going on for well over nine years, BAKHTAR news agency reports in a communique released here. Right after the triumph of the April Revolution, imperialist and reactionary quarters launched the organisation of armed interference in Afghanistan's affairs, supplying the counter-revolutionaries with weapons and money and sending their instructors to train the bandits. The aggression escalated into such a dimension by the end of 1979 that a real threat emerged to the revolutionary gains as well as to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, the news agency stresses. In these circumstances, on behalf of the Afghan people the Afghan Government approached the USSR with the request for military aid, which it extended under the treaty of friendship, good-neighbourliness and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan and in keeping with Article 51 of the U.N. Charter.

Following the introduction of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, the direct threat to Afghanistan's independence was removed, but imperialism and reaction did not reconcile themselves with their defeat and kept building up the scope of interference. Tens of thousands of Afghans perished as a result of the subversive and terrorist activity by the extremists, serious damage was done to the national economy.

In these conditions the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy, which won right at once the hearts of millions of Afghans both inside the country and abroad, has become an important victory by the people. The success of this course is evident. More than 110,000 refugees have returned to the homeland from Iran, Pakistan and other states by today, almost 35,000 members of the anti-government groups laid down arms, negotiations on ceasing confrontation are under way with 1,100 armed groups. The popular power control over upwards of 3,000 villages was established peacefully in less than a year that has passed since the proclamation of the reconciliation course, elections to local government bodies were held in most settlements.

For the purpose of ending bloodhsed the government came up with a total of 14 peace proposals to the opposition. The holding of loya jirga which endorsed the constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan and elected the president was a tremendous success of the reconciliation policy.

At issue now is the question of the return home of Soviet soldiers-internationalists, the communique says. Afghanistan and the USSR have repeatedly displayed good will. This is exemplified by the withdrawal from the country of six Soviet regiments last year, the exit of Soviet troops from 13 Afghan provinces, the new proposals for cutting up to 12 months the term for the complete withdrawal of the Soviet troop contingent. All this creates good pre-conditions for the earliest political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, BAKHTAR points out.

At the same time, the enemies of the Afghan people are intensifying rather than terminating the subversive activity aimed at thwarting reconciliation in Afghanistan. The illustrious examples of such an irresponsible and inhuman approach are the supply of the counter-revolutionaries with anti-aircraft missiles manufactured in the United States and Britain and the mass training by foreign instructors of bandits in handling these weapons.

The recent events demonstrate the Afghan people's longing for peace and support of the national reconciliation policy by all peace-minded forces. At the same time, they show that the policy of state terrorism embarked upon by the United States and several of its allies is a serious hurdle holding up the normalization of the situation around Afghanistan. Common sense demands that all parties to the conflict should display good will. A peaceful solution to the issue can be attained only through halting weapons shipments and other forms of interference, BAKHTAR emphasizes.

DRA Urges Simultaneous Aid Halt, USSR Pullout

TA241959 Moscow in Dari to Afghanistan 1700 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, the U.S. State Department released a report alleging that the United States is in favor of resolving the Afghan situation through negotiations. Such a claim, contained in a State Department document, is self-evident and meaningful. It shows that in Washington they can no longer ignore the growing desire of Afghans, including those who reside abroad, that an end must finally be made to the fratricidal war, and peace be restored to the tormented land of Afghanistan.

Currently good possibilities are available in Afghanistan for ending the bloodshed through the formation of a coalition government, the establishment and activity of political parties, and the implementation of democratic changes on the basis of the recently approved Constitution. These constructive means have become possible as a result of the Afghan Government's approach of national reconciliation. The Soviet Union, which has adopted a political decision regarding the withdrawal of its forces, is also fulfilling a significant role with regard to a political settlement of the Afghan situation. But let us continue the discussion about Washington's assurances.

The question posed is whether Washington's words conform to its deeds. In response one must regretfully say that for now such a conformity cannot be seen. For example, in the period between 1983 and 1987 more

than $1 billion were allocated by the U.S. Congress for escalating the war in Afghanistan. The export of hundreds of anti-aircraft Stinger missiles to the rebels, the use of which has resulted in not only military, but also civilian planes being fired upon, was the response of the U.S. Government to the Afghan leadership's peace efforts.

It is very likely that Washington has promised to continue the delivery of financial and other aid to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries. On the other side of the ocean, they are still overlooking the acts of Afghan extremists, including those who are trying to continue the fratricidal war until the achievement of victory. Aid to the rebels, who are trying to prevent a peaceful solution of the conflict, is not confined to the dispatch of weapons and money and the courting and instigation of rebel ringleaders in capitals of Western countries. Recently the news media of the United States and other Western countries intensified propaganda activities against the Republic of Afghanistan. This includes 50 different radios which every day and night broadcast a great deal of false information to Afghans and incite the people to resist the government's measures and to foil the efforts of patriotic forces.

We are observing that so far the U.S. Government's policy has been an impediment to the national reconciliation process. Despite the U.S. Government's benevolent assurances in its statements, the State Department report does not change anything in this connection. Thus the question posed is: Will the United States, in view of the existing realities, cease financing and arming of the enemies, at least simultaneously with the beginning of withdrawal of forces? Many issues related to a successful achievement of a political solution of the Afghan problem depend on this question. Otherwise, responsibility for the continuation of bloodshed in Afghanistan will fall on Washington.

Dushmans' Deadly Strife Belies Unity Claims

PM221325 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Meshchannikov dispatch under the "Facts, Events, Opinions" rubric: "Afghanistan—Ringleaders Settling Scores"]

[Text] Kabul—There is no lack of speeches from the leadership of the "Seven-Party Alliance"—the main opposition parties, whose headquarters are in Peshawar in Pakistan—about their complete mutual understanding and cooperation in the struggle "for the holy cause of Islam." However, beyond such declarations, matters are proceeding with difficulty.

"The Seven" have not managed either to hold elections or form a "government in exile" (which they announced at the beginning of this year) or prepare and ratify their "Constitution." After protracted squabbling they have only managed to elect one leader—Younis Khalis—which was presented by their Western patrons as proof of the indissoluble unity of the "fighters for the faith."

However, people in the camp of the counterrevolution understand the concept of "unity" in a peculiar way. Internecine rows between their ringleaders and bloody clashes between armed units affiliated to different parties are not abating. Quite the contrary. Suffice it to recall the recent slaughter near the Pakistani city of Kohat, as a result of which 25 dushmans died and 14 were wounded. The cause of the clash was the sharing out of weapons, which continue to be generously supplied by the counterrevolution's Western zealots.

No less brutal massacres are also taking place on the territory of Afghanistan, where the dushmans on the whole share not weapons but spheres of influence, taxes from peasants' harvest, and fines from local inhabitants. Thus, 15 men died in Nahrin County, Baghlan Province as a result of a clash between "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" and "Islamic Society of Afghanistan" detachments. The leaders of the "Islamic Revolutionary Movement" and the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" bandit groups had a bloody exchange of fire lasting many hours in the village of Badyabad, Laghman Province over a disputed share out of the tax collected from the population.

Not only the dushmans themselves but also peaceful inhabitants are the victims of similar clashes, as happened, for instance in the area of the Sheniz gorge in Vardak Province, where Sangar (Islamic Revolutionary Movement) and Mullah Shiran (Islamic Society of Afghanistan) shared zones of influence. The local population suffered above all: 10 peasants died, more than 30 were wounded, and dozens of houses were destroyed.

Armed conflicts between detachments from even the same political grouping are becoming more frequent. For several months there has been no letup in the clashes between the groups of Fakir and Bakhil, who oppose the people's power under the flag of the "Islamic Society of Afghanistan."

And here is yet another model of the imaginary "unity" of the counterrevolutionary forces: A certain Ma'Mur Deylani blew up with a mine one Sodyk [name as transliterated], his "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" comrade in arms, 29 November this year in the village of Washkheyn , Laghman Province. A few days later the gang headed by the brother of the dead man attacked Deylani's detachment in the village of Nimanah. There were dozens of dead and wounded on both sides.

I can cite a great multitude of similar incidents. So all the declarations about the solidity of the "seven-party alliance" are no more than passing off the desired for the reality and an attempt to increase their value for those who encourage and finance the continuation of the undeclared war. As the Eastern adage goes: "You can't

hide a camel under a bridge." Despite propaganda maneuvers, the leaders of the counterrevolution are finding it increasingly difficult to hide the disorder and pillage rife among their fighters who are inflicting death and suffering on the Afghan people.

Najibullah Arrives in India En Route to SRV

LD242112 Moscow TASS in English 1503 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi December 24 TASS—President of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah arrived in New Delhi today, on his way to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea to pay official friendly visits.

Negotiations were held here today between the president of Afghanistan and Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi. Negotiations were held at the same time between the foreign minister of Afghanistan Abdul Wakil and India's Minister of State for External Affairs Natwar Singh.

Question of mutual interest, including the situation in Afghanistan, were discussed in the course of the negotiations, a representative of India's Ministry of External Affairs said at a briefing. India comes out in support of a political settlement of the Afghan problem, said the representative of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Indian press attaches great significance to the visit of the head of the country, friendly to India. The newspaper TIMES OF INDIA underlines its importance, considering India's interest in solution of the Afghan problem. The negotiations are being held in New Delhi at a time when priority attention is being paid to this problem in all capitals which have a direct relation to that, the newspaper writes.

Holds Talks With Gandhi

LD250540 Moscow TASS in English 0529 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi December 25 TASS—Afghan President Najibullah going on an official friendly visit to Vietnam and Kampuchea departed from New Delhi for Hanoi today.

Afghan President met Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Delhi. They discussed a broad range of questions. Rajiv Gandhi expressed support for the national reconciliation programme being implemented by the Afghan Government. The sides favoured expansion of economic, trade and cultural relations between Afghanistan and India. They mapped out concrete measures in this sphere.

In discussing international issues, the leaders of the two states backed the Soviet-American Treaty on Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles.

At the same time there were talks between Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil and Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Natwar Singh.

TASS Analyst Views U.S. Aid to Pakistan

LD252337 Moscow TASS in English 1920 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 25 TASS—TASS News Analyst Valeriy Vavilov writes:

The U.S. Congress adopted a decision on the granting of military-economic aid to Pakistan next year.

The Symington amendment which stipulates withdrawal of U.S. aid from any country developing nuclear weapons has thus been discarded. Amassed pressure by the administration compelled the congressmen to overlook obvious facts: the information of U.S. military reconnaissance which attests to the military nature of Islamabad's nuclear programme. The congressmen have also disregarded such obvious proofs of Pakistan's developing nuclear bomb as tests of separate components of those deadly arms: an electronic explosive device, of hemispheres of nuclear shell, the mechanism of assembly of the uranium charge to obtain the critical mass, and the fact that Pakistani plants have the amounts of uranium which make it possible to stage a nuclear explosion.

A number of congressmen, among them former astronaut John Glenn warned about the danger of Pakistan's getting nuclear weapons. Pakistan's becoming a nuclear power would run counter to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and would drastically change the military-strategic situation in Asia, would lead to the disturbance of the political balance in the region, would enhance the danger of the arms race, including nuclear, in the region. These protests have been of no avail.

Violating its own legislative acts, the U.S. Administration accepted Islamabad's unsubstantiated assurances of "the peaceful nature of the Pakistani nuclear programme" and on this flimsy ground appropriated new hundreds of millions of dollars to Pakistan. These funds will buy Pakistan new tanks, howitzers, missiles, more batches of the most up-to-date F-16 fighter bombers—nuclear delivery vehicles, new complexes of "stinger" anti-aircraft rockets and many other kinds of armaments.

Supplying the latest armaments to Pakistan in large volumes, Washington pursues the aim of ensuring the use of Pakistan's territory as its place d'armes for exerting military and political pressure on the countries of South and Southwest Asia, for waging an undeclared war against Afghanistan, for stirring up a military conflict in the region.

The militarisation of Pakistan and actual widening of the undeclared war against Afghanistan give the lie to Washington's assurances about the wish to establish

peace and tranquility in this area. Ever more hundreds of millions of dollars spent on Pakistan's arming lead to the further aggravation of the situation in the area.

USSR Envoy Briefs Nepal's Shrestha on Summit

LD241947 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1200 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Katmandu, 24 Dec (TASS)—M.M. Singh Shrestha, prime minister of Nepal, received Oleg Grinevskiy, special envoy of the Soviet leadership and ambassador at large, who briefed him on the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Washington.

During the conversation, an in-depth exchange of opinions on ways of strengthening security in the Asian-Pacific region took place.

The prime minister stated that the conclusion of the treaty scrapping medium-and shorter-range missiles was a major contribution to securing global peace, an important step toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. He gave a high assessment to the policy of the Soviet leadership, which has made energetic efforts aimed at concluding that treaty.

Vorontsov Receives Iranian Envoy 25 Dec

LD251524 Moscow TASS in English 1409 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 25 TASS—Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the USSR, today received N. Heyrany Nobari, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the USSR, at his request. They discussed the issues of bilateral Soviet-Iranian relations and also some other issues of mutual interest.

Foreign Ministry Summons Iranian Envoy 27 Dec

LD271826 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] On 27 December the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Soviet Union was summoned to the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs where a resolute protest was expressed to him over the bandit attack at the Soviet Union's General Consulate in Esfahan, committed today by a group of individuals on a rampage from among a number of Afghan counterrevolutionaries entrenched in Iran.

The Iranian charge d'affairs was told among other things that the attackers forced their way on to the territory of the Soviet mission and endangered the lives of Soviet people as a result of their actions.

It was only by a lucky coincidence that no one was hurt. Material damage was inflicted on the General Consulate. The Soviet side has demanded that the Iranian authorities take all necessary measures to ensure the complete security of all Soviet establishments and citizens in Iran to prevent actions such as these from happenning in the future, and to pay for the material damage caused.

A resolute protest to Iran concerning that hostile incident was expressed in Tehran today by the USSR ambassador in Iran. An appropriate note was handed to the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Regret was expressed at the Iranian Foreign Ministry over what had taken place in Esfahan, and assurances were given that the Iranian authorities will not tolerate any new attacks on Soviet establishments in Iran.

As is believed at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the attack on the USSR General Consulate in Esfahan was committed by individuals belonging to Afghan emigre circles in Iran who are trying to oppose the Iranian policy directed at developing relations with the Soviet Union.

According to an Iranian Foreign Ministry official, the police used firearms against the bandits and there are casualties among them. [sentence as heard]

Several Iranian policemen were seriously wounded. According to Iranian reports, after the demarche was undertaken by the Soviet side, the Iranian authorities reinforced the guard on the Soviet Union's General Consulate in Esfahan, and additional detachments of police were commandeered to the area. The situation around the Soviet General Consulate in Esfahan is now normal.

Gromyko Praises 'Good' Relations With Iraq

JN241149 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, 24 Dec (INA)—Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has lauded Soviet-Iraqi relations, describing them as good and strong.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Moscow, Gromyko stressed his country's interest in promoting relations with Iraq according to the joint interests of the two friendly countries. He expressed his pain at the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. He said: In our talks with King Husayn, the monarch of Jordan, during his recent visit to Moscow we reiterated that the USSR supports a halt to the Iraq-Iran war.

Gromyko pointed to the importance of implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 598 to end the war. He asserted that procrastination over its implementation would inevitably result in adopting additional arrangements to implement it. He said this resolution is a good basis for the beginning of negotiations to resolve the current dispute between Iraq and Iran. Gromyko expressed hope that the coming phase of efforts will witness an achievement which secures an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

The chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium stressed the need for a quick convening of an international conference to resolve the Middle East issue and bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Concluding his statement, Andrey Gromyko said his talks with King Husayn, Monarch of Jordan, were fruitful and constructive and will undoubtedly enhance bilateral relations in particular and Soviet-Arab relations in general.

Further on General Tretyak's Visit to Libya

Inspects Air Defenses

LD252318 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1603 GMT 25 Dec 87

[By Dejan Lukic]

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 25 (TANJUG)—Soviet Deputy Defence Minister and Commander of the Air-Defence Forces General Ivan Tretyak yesterday left Libya after a visit which created considerable interest among political and military observers in Tripoli.

In the absence of any official comment on the content and nature of the visit, well-informed sources say that General Tretyak carried out a "detailed inspection" of Libya's air-defence system.

According to the samd sources, the Soviets assessed that Libya made progress in the field, but that "urgent measures" are needed in order to enable its air-defence to "act effectively in the complex conditions which characterize the current situation in the region."

It is still unknown whether new arrangements were concluded during the visit on the delivery of Soviet air-defence systems to the Libyan Armed Forces.

General Tretyak's visit occurred at a time of open criticism by the Libyan media of the recent U.S.-Soviet summit.

Concludes Talks, Ends Visit

PM281621 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Dec 87
Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Visit Concluded"]

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Dec—Colonel A. Jabir, member of the Revolutionary Leadership and commander in chief of the Libyan Jamahiriyah Armed Forces, has received Army General I. M. Tretyak, commander in chief of the Air Defense Forces and deputy minister of defense of the USSR, who was here on an official visit. Their conversation took place in the spirit of the friendly relations existing between the two countries.

Army General I.M. Tretyak, commander in chief of the Air Defense Forces and deputy minister of defense of the USSR, returned to Moscow 24 December following his official visit to Libya.

Army General I.M. Tretyak was met at the airport by Marshal of Aviation A.N. Yefimov, commander in chief of the Air Force and deputy minister of defense of the USSR, and by generals and officers.

Arab Envoys Call on USSR To Promote Peace Parley

LD251047 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Yesterday Arab ambassadors met in Moscow to investigate the explosive situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A statement issued by the Arab ambassadors, with whom Egypt participated for the first time, called on the Soviet Union to continue its efforts for holding an international peace conference in the Middle East.

PLO Envoy on Palestinian Demonstrations

LD232140 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1705 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, 23 Dec (TASS)—TASS correspondent Igor Agabekov reports:

All Palestinians, both in the Israeli-occupied lands and beyond them are pursuing one goal, the implementation of their legitimate rights, which amount to the return to their homeland, self-determination and the right to create their own independent state, Sa'id Abu 'Amarah, PLO temporary charge d'affaires in the Soviet Union, has said.

The current demonstrations by the Palestinians in the occupied lands, he said in a conversation with a TASS correspondent, are further confirmation of the fact that no one can ignore the will of our people, and they also show that all Palestinians are united and closely ranked around the PLO, its only legitimate representative. Twenty years of Israeli occupation have not been able to suppress the will of the Palestinian people for freedom and independence. The present uprising, despite Israel's policy of the "iron" fist, has reaffirmed the determination of the Palestinians to continue the struggle for the liberation of their territories and the creation of their own state. Despite the fact that dozens of people have been killed, hundreds injured, and thousands thrown into jail, the uprising continues. The demonstrations have confirmed the indisputable fact that the Near East problem cannot be resolved without a settlement of its key problem, the Palestinian question.

A new element in their demonstrations is their size and scope. Now solidarity is being shown among Palestinians who are living in Israel, and on the occupied territories,

and all the progressive forces in Israel itself. Also new are the methods of suppressing the Palestinian demonstrations—Israeli is actually now resorting to fascist methods.

Sa'id Abu 'Amarah pointed out that the PLO is calling for an international conference on the Near East under UN aegis and with the participation of all the involved sides, including the United Nations. Attempts to isolate the PLO from participation in such a conference will not lead to a settlement of the situation in the region.

Briefs

Metallurgy Protocol With India

New Delhi December 21 TASS—A meeting of the working group of the inter-government Soviet-Indian Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperaton examined here questions of improving further mutually advantageous cooperation between the USSR and India in non-ferrous metallurgy. A protocol signed on the results of the meeting points out that India attaches great importance to Soviet assistance in working the bauxite deposit in Andhra Pradesh state, Soviet supplies of the latest technology in production of aluminium-silicon alloys and joint scientific and technical experiments in processing non-ferrous metal concentrates and agglomeration of metallic ores. Meeting participants expressed satisfaction with the operation of the aluminium (?factory) in Korba which was built with the USSR's assistance and fitted out with Soviet equipment. The enterprise puts out annually 10 (?kilotons) of metal. [Text] [*Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 21 Dec 87 LD*] 37

Sub-Saharan Africa

Envoy Briefs Zimbabwe's Mugabe on Summit Results

LD242110 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1241 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Harare, 24 Dec (TASS)—In Harare today Robert Mugabe, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement and prime minister of Zimbabwe, received A.Yu. Urnov, special representative of the Soviet leadership and deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee international department. The Soviet representative informed the leader of the Nonaligned Movement of the main results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting.

On behalf of the nonaligned countries, R. Mugabe welcomed the results of the talks in Washington and primarily the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles. He stressed that the Nonaligned Movement, as an influential force of the present day, will continue to come out in support of initiatives aimed at achieving disarmament. R. Mugabe highly appraised the principled position of the Soviet Union and the single-minded efforts of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in the cause of ensuring peace and removing the threat of nuclear war. [words indistinct]

The Soviet representative also met with members of the Political Bureau of the Zimbabwe African People's Union-Patriotic Front, including M. Nyagumbo, D. Mutasa, N. Shamuyarira, and other party and state officials of the country.

Life in Benin 'Without Any Embellishments'

LD201104 Moscow in English to Africa 1700 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Moscow-Cotonou flight brought us to Benin, said journalist Murad Nepesov, and we immediately became the center of attention of Benin journalists. We had only just arrived from the airport to the hotel, yet our talk with our Benin colleagues could already be heard from the receiver on our table. After the last sentence, in which we said that on returning to Moscow we would tell all about life in faraway Benin, a tall Beninian, who had been listening attentively to the interview, approached us and introduced himself as (Atolu), a businessman. He said he was very glad to see us, especially as he is a long-standing activist of the Soviet cultural center in Cotonou.

He wanted to know why Soviet journalists writing about Benin embellished the reality of life there. Our life, he said, is difficult. The exotic surroundings are only for Western journalists. You are our friends and we expect you to give a true account of life here. Your country, he pointed out, has launched a process of restructuring, what you call perestroyka; you tell all the truth about the shortcomings that you encounter in building a socialist society, so why do you picture life in Benin as some kind of tropical pastoral and write about it in such a bucolic style?

I began my tour of Benin with those parting words, Murad Nepesov went on to say, and decided to write about Benin without any embellishments.

Benin may be said to have three capitals. The official capital is Porto Novo; the economic capital is Cotonou; and the historic, Abomey. [passage omitted]

The (Goho) Square, surrounded by new buildings, has become the most beautiful in Abomey. In October 1972 a group of young officers headed by Mathieu Kerekou, who is now the country's president, proclaimed the beginning of a new stage in the life of the people of Benin. Much water has run under the bridge since those days. Of course, the people of Benin would like to see greater results of revolutionary changes. As yet, only 10% of the country's fertile land is cultivated. There are not enough agronomists, mechanics, and hardly any up-to-date farm machinery. Much has still to be done to raise the people's living standards, the level of public health care, and to boost drinking water supplies.

The second congress of Benin's Party of the People's Revolution has taken concrete steps to raise the level of production of the strategic branches of the economy; that is, agriculture, power engineering, and the production of essential commodities. Special attention is paid to eradicating corruption and strengthening labor discipline. This spring, after special investigation, the National Executive Council decided to dismiss 22 servicemen of the country's public security forces. It was revealed that police and customs officials took bribes. They were strictly punished, together with their patrons.

Benin journalists (Arthur Balle) and (Elois Suru) accompanied me on a sight-seeing tour of the city, Murad Nepesov went on to say. My guides spoke Russian quite well, as both of them had graduated from Soviet higher educational institutions. All in all, there are more than 700 graduates of Soviet educational institutions in Benin. They continue to maintain friendly ties among themselves and have set up their own association. [passage omitted]

You know, (Elois) said, smiling sadly, tribalism is an awful evil. If, say, somebody of the village has become an important official, then according to tradition he is obliged to fill up cosy posts around him with his fellow villagers. This kind of favoritism does great harm to the country. And no less evil is the corruption rampant among functionaries of the state apparatus, that has practically remained unchanged since old times. [passage omitted]

The people of Benin have to tackle serious problems, writes Murad Nepesov. Together with the Benin journalists we saw a lot in their country and, as promised, we try to give a true description of it without any embellishments. Lifting their clenched fists, the people of Benin welcome one another with the word Ehuzu!, meaning in the Fon language: Change everything! And they receive the answer, Dan-dan! And that means: Absolutely!, or, that is how it will be!

East Europe

Soviet-Bulgarian Space Crews Plan Mission

LD251402 Moscow TASS in English 1258 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 25 TASS—A joint Soviet-Bulgarian space mission is set to begin June 21, 1988, said Aleksey Leonov, a veteran of several space flights, who now serves as deputy commander of the cosmonaut-training center. He spoke at a news conference here today.

He said that the Soviet-Bulgarian crew was to accomplish much more work compared with the previous joint mission in 1979.

Leonov then introduced the crews to the reporters. The first crew includes Mission Commander Anatoliy Solovyev, Flight Engineer Viktor Savinykh and cosmonaut-researcher, Bulgarian national Aleksandur Aleksandrov who was a member of the stand-by crew in 1979. The second crew includes Mission Commander Vladimir Lyakhov, Flight Engineer Andrey Zaytsev and cosmonaut-researcher, Bulgarian national Krasimir Stoyanov. Both crews have been in training for the upcoming mission since last January. The first phase of training is already over and in November the crews entered the second phase of preparations for the flight.

"The upcoming space mission was not conceived simply as something giving Bulgaria a chance to carry out its planned space experiments (it is common knowledge that during the 1979 flight the program was not fulfilled, as the crew had to return to earth because of the failure of one of the engines). Stepan Bogodyazh, head of a department at Glavkosmos, the state space agency, told reporters, "It is a step forward in all fields of space exploration."

It is planned to carry out 40 scientific experiments during the 10-day flight. For that purpose cosmonauts will employ fundamentally new equipment developed by Soviet and Bulgarian scientists. There are plans for experiments in astrophysics, remote earth surface sensing, space biology and medicine.

Bulgarian cosmonauts live at Zvezdnyy together with their spouses and children. "I'm afraid that our spouses are having a more difficult time than we are. For they have to do all household chores and look after the children. It baffles me how my wife Blagovesta finds time to attend Spanish-language courses at Moscow University," said Aleksandur Aleksandrov.

News Conference Held

LD252240 Moscow TASS in English 1622 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 25 TASS—The plans of the new Soviet-Bulgarian space expedition are not only to fulfil what it failed to fulfil in the first flight, but to achieve "ten times more". Both crews, the main and the stand-by crews, said this in the press centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry today about the coming launching fixed for July 21, 1988.

The crews consist of veterans of the cosmonauts' detachment Viktor Savinykh and Vladimir Lyakhov, who were twice in space, and also debutants. Bulgaria is represented by Aleksandur Aleksandrov and Krasimir Stojanov who have been staying since last January in the stellar town near Moscow. Having mastered theoretical subjects they started practical sessions at trainers and drilling of all elements of the future flight from November.

Deputy chief of the cosmonauts' training centre Aleksey Leonov said that during a ten-day flight the joint crew is to implement a vast programme of medical, biological and other research experiments for long-distance sounding of the earth and the atmosphere, space physics. This programme will greatly surpass the complex of scientific work which has not been carried out during the joint flight in 1979 because of the fault of one of the engines.

Meeting with prominent Soviet specialists in cosmonautics, the journalists used the occasion to ask them about the plans for cooperation of the USSR and the USA in the exploration of Mars. Stepan Bogodyazh, head of a department of the chief administration for development and use of space engineering for the economy and research (Glavkosmos), said that experts of both countries had already worked out recommendations for a quite real joint experiment and referred them to their governments. With regard to "Phobos" project, it was said that both stations that will be launched toward Mars in July have already been equipped. Practical preparation for the launching will be started in March-April at Baykonur cosmodrome.

Experiments Prepared

LD252325 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT25 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newcast]

[Excerpts] The crews that are preparing for the upcoming Soviet-Bulgarian space flight met journalists today at the press center of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. This will be the first international mission to the Mir orbital station.

For the first time in orbit cosmonauts will be working with a new generation of electronic equipment—personal computers developed in Bulgaria.

[Begin recording] [V.P. Savinykh, USSR space pilot, flight engineer of the international crew] This is another big step in our space research. An engineer is now able to evaluate right on board the results of observations done earlier. Before we used to set an instrument on a certain object and received complete information many months after coming back after scientists had processed those materials, or we used to send it via telemetry to earth and they would sort it out there. An engineer on board is now able to carry out an express analysis of the results he received during this work. This is a very interesting program, there is a lot of equipment, but there is, probably, a slight shortcoming there. The experiments that have been listed here—40 experiments on board—this is a bit too much for 7 days. We would like to ask the management of the flight to extend our program taking into account the number of instruments developed. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Bulgarian scientists have prepared experiments in space physics, long-distance sounding of the earth, space technology and medicine. This research was started by the first Soviet-Bulgarian flight in 1979. The docking with the station failed then but other cosmonauts worked successfully with Bulgarian equipment. And now a new launch of a Soviet-Bulgarian crew is in the offing. It has been scheduled for the summer of 1988.

'Serious Shortcomings' Cause Romanian Shortages

LD261317 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1045 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Video report by V. Korablev; from the "In the Countries of Socialism" program]

[Excerpts] The face of the Romanian capital probably reflects most clearly all the good changes which have taken place in the Republic over the years of people's power. [passage omitted]

But there are also serious problems here. And one of the most acute problems which the Republic's national economy has come up against is that of energy. For 3 years now, the country has been living in a regime of strict economy. Supplies of electricity, gas, and hot water are limited. Sales of gasoline for private driving are limited.

Naturally, the question may arise. What is the reason for these cardinal measures? Well, in the first place it is connected with serious shortcomings in the work of the coal-mining, chemical and petroleum industries, and also with the backwardness in the sphere of power engineering. In the second place, these measures are connected with the efforts which Romania is making in order to cover its foreign debt.

These efforts are providing some positive results.

SRV's Nguyen Co Thach Visits Albania

LD252251 Moscow TASS in English 1707 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Sofia December 25 TASS—Nguyen Co Thach, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, arrived on an official friendly visit in Albania on December 24 at the invitation of Albania Foreign Minister Reiz Malile, the Albanian news agency ATA said.

On the same day a friendly meeting was held between Reiz Malile and Nguyen Co Thach, during which the sides pointed out the successfully developing close friendship between the Albanian and Vietnamese peoples and friendly relations between the two countries. Both ministers expressed the conviction that the relations of friendship and cooperation between Albania and

Vietnam would further develop and strengthen for the benefit of the two peoples and in the interests of struggle against imperialism. They exchanged views on broadening cooperation in many fields, trade, technology, science and culture.

Reiz Malile and Nguyen Co Thach also examined the situation on the Balkans, in Europe, in South East Asia and in other regions of the world.

In the afternoon Nguyen Co Thach was received by Adil Carcani, member of the Political Bureau of the Albanian Labour Party Central Committee, chairman of the Albanian Council of Ministers, who briefed the guest from Vietnam on the efforts and achievements of the Albanian people, Albania's home and foreign policy.

West Europe

Ryzhkov Interview by Swedish Paper Summarized

LD262354 Moscow TASS in English 2113 GMT 26 Dec 87

["Nikolay Ryzhkov's Answers to DAGENS NYHETER—Summary"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow December 27 TASS—"The first application of the brakes on the sliding towards nuclear war" is how Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR has referred to the Soviet-U.S. treaty, which was signed during Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the United States, on the elimination of two classes of nuclear weapons—intermediate- and shorter-range missiles.

The head of the Soviet Government answered questions put by Christina Jutterstroem, chief editor of the Stockholm newspaper DAGENS NYHETER.

Nikolay Ryzhkov emphasized that "the talks which the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States had in Washington open up favourable prospects for a solution to the issue concerning a radical reduction in strategic offensive arms, too". The issue, he pointed out, is the centre-piece in Soviet-U.S. relations and in the entire process of ending the arms race.

The answers given by Nikolay Ryzhkov mention positive changes in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. "They have acquired a greater dynamism, and trust is growing, too. The accords reached in Washington make it possible to hope for further headway. We are firmly resolved to continue to improve relations with the United states in all fields. But this process cannot and should not be a street with one-way traffic. This is a mutual process."

Having pointed out that the state of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States is of great importance for the international atmosphere, the head of the Soviet Government recalled what had already been spoken of more than once: "The Soviet Union does not look at the world from the viewpoint of Soviet-U.S. relations. Our relations with other countries—large and small—have their own independent value".

In answer to the question about prospects for a political settlement of the Afghanistan situation, Nikolay Ryzhkov said that such a settlement "is not a distant prospect but a possibility of the near future".

Already now there are no troops in 12 out of 29 provinces of Afghanistan. With a view to the earliest and fair settlement of the Afghan problem, the Soviet Union is ready to do everything depending on it, said the head of the Soviet Government, emphasizing at the same time that "a settlement may become a reality only provided the interference from the outside in the affairs of Afghanistan is fully discontinued".

Commenting on the Persian Gulf situation, Nikolay Ryzhkov described it as "a tense one and fraught with further serious complications". The Soviet Union, he recalled, has come forward with a proposal on the formation of a United Nations naval force. "The implementation of the proposal which does not infringe anyone's rights or interests, would make it possible, I think, to ease tension in the Gulf to a considerable extent and would contribute to the process of bringing about an end to the Iran-Iraq war".

Special place in Nikolay Ryzhkov's answers was given to Swedish-Soviet relations. Unfortunately, he emphasized, they were and are being influenced by hostile circles and opponents of goodneighbourliness with the Soviet Union. "A considerable damage to relations between the two countries was done by the so-called 'submarine campaign' launched in Sweden in connection with an accidental entry by a Soviet submarine into Swedish waters in autumn 1981, which we sincerely regret. The echoes of that unfounded campaign can be heard now as well, although the Soviet side has long given appropriate exhaustive explanations."

The naval ships of the Soviet Union, Nikolay Ryzhkov emphasized, have been given explicit instructions not to approach the border of Swedish territorial waters, and they strictly observe them.

He stated the Soviet Union had always respected and continued to respect Sweden's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

In answer to the question about the delimitation of the Baltic Sea between the Soviet Union and Sweden, Nikolay Ryzhkov stated that the Soviet Union was highly interested in a fair resolution of the issue at an earliest date.

The head of the Soviet Government voiced concern over the fact that "it is precisely in the northern direction that certain circles of NATO look for ways 'to make up' for the loss of Pershing and ground-launched cruise missiles through a build-up of other types of nuclear and non-nuclear arms in northern waters and air space".

It is no secret, he went on to say, that there had been talk on that score by U.S. representatives in a number of West European countries, including Nordic ones, as recently as last week.

"The Soviet leadership hopes that our partners at the Geneva talks will adhere to sensible and realistic positions devoid of a desire to achieve one-sided advantages or to go to a deliberate deception of both their own public and the world one."

Nikolay Ryzhkov expressed hope that the "Vienna follow-up meeting of the countries which participated in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) will finally work out a mandate for further talks on confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe".

The new situation and the qualitatively different atmosphere in the world following the Soviet-U.S. talks in Washington, the head of the Soviet Government pointed out, should have a positive effect on the strengthening of security and reduction in military activity in the north European region and the adjacent seas.

As far as the specific Soviet proposals about how to achieve that are concerned, they, or to be more exact, a whole package of them, were set out in Mikhail Gorbachev's speech in Murmansk on October 1, this year, Nikolay Ryzhkov recalled.

"We hope," he said "that the north Europeans will become interested partners in a dialogue and cooperative action. We have common concerns: To make the north really a region of peace and creation".

The Soviet Union, Nikolay Ryzhkov went on to say, had always sought to maintain goodneighbourly relations with Sweden. Exchanges of visits by the heads of government had become regular. Parliamentary ties and contacts between foreign ministers acquired a steady character. Political consultations are held through the agency of the ministries of foreign affairs. Trade and economic ties are also characterised by definite constancy. "Although the Soviet Union's share in Sweden's foreign trade is not big, there are, we think, large untapped reserves in this field".

"Soviet-Swedish relations now rest on a solid legal treaty foundation: Many intergovernmental and interdepartmental treaties and agreements have been concluded and successfully 'operate'. They regulate our contacts in diverse fields. Some other important agreements are to be signed during my forthcoming visit in January 1988," the head of the Soviet Government said.

Nikolay Ruzhkov went on to say that the Swedish neutrality policy, "which constitutes an important factor of peace and stability not only in the north of Europe but throughout the European Continent as well", is held in respect in the Soviet Union.

Many questions dealt with the current restructuring process in the Soviet Union. Answering them, the head of the Soviet Government said that the purpose of restructuring was firmly to discard everything outdated, erroneous, and harmful, and everything that hinders further development or restrains full unfolding of the entire potential of Soviet society.

The restructuring of economic management prompted the need for a reform of price formation as well, as a major component of the economic mechanism, Nikolay Ryzhkov pointed out.

"As far as restructuring of consumer prices is concerned", he said, "more correct correlations of prices of various types of goods and services will be established, which will make it possible to stimulate a more perfect structure of consumption on the basis of an increase in the manufacture of goods, a rise in their quality, and the growth of the population's incomes. The main condition which should be ensured during the introduction of new consumer prices is to prevent a decline in the living standard of the population".

In answer to the question about the role of Stalin, the head of the Soviet Government said: "We proceed from the premise that Stalin should not be equated with the entire party and millions of ordinary people whose commitment to Lenin's ideas and revolutionary ideals never got shaken in the hardest and most tragic periods of our history."

Resolute and consistent steps towards complete restoration of Lenin's concept of socialism and of the Leninist style and methods of the activities of the party, Nikolay Ryzhkov went on to say, were made by the 27th Congress of the CPSU.

Speaking of his forthcoming visit to Sweden, Nikolay Ryzhkov pointed out that its principal aim "is together with the Swedish side to give new stimuli to the development of relations between our two countries as a whole. Naturally, specific questions of trade and economic relations, both in the field of traditional trade ties and in the field of utilisation of new forms of cooperation, will be also touched upon during the planned contacts."

Ryzhkov To Visit Sweden, Norway

LD280651 Moscow TASS in English 0646 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—Nikolay Ryzhkov, head of the Soviet Government, will pay official visits to Sweden and Norway in mid-January, 1988, a TASS diplomatic correspondent has been told.

Italy's Andreotti Interviewed on INF Treaty, UN

PM221425 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Unattributed interview with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti: "At a Key Stage"; date of interview not specified]

[Text] Rome—Question: How do you assess the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles, and what subsequent steps may be implemented, in your opinion, in the immediate future?

Answer: The Treaty Between the USSR and the United States on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles constitutes a development of the disarmament process. I would define it unhesitatingly as a historic treaty, proceeding on the basis of its positive moral significance. Indeed, mankind, which is used to a constant race in increasingly sophisticated and devastating means of destruction, is witnessing for the first time the peaceful elimination of a whole class of armaments.

This may give new impetus to developing East-West dialogue, which, apart from becoming more intensive, will also, I think, acquire a qualitatively new significance in many aspects. Both the meeting that has just taken place between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev and also the new meeting scheduled for 1988 undoubtedly facilitate this process.

I would say that at the present time, the primary aim for the whole world, including the public opinion of all countries, is to advance undeviatingly toward an agreement on resolutely reducing strategic nuclear arsenals.

The Italian side has always regarded as positive those avenues which envisage bold solutions creating guarantees of increased stability at lower levels of both nuclear and conventional armaments.

Establishing a new equilibrium at a reduced level of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe, while taking into account the existing asymmetry and resolute reduction of offensive potential, seems to me the main important path toward consolidating security and trust on the European Continent. Efforts for the speediest conclusion of an agreement on totally banning chemical weapons within the framework of the Geneva Disarmament Conference must also be stepped up.

Clearly, it is a matter of very complex problems which, however, cannot be deemed insoluble if we approach them in the same constructive spirit that has been characteristic of East-West dialogue in recent months.

Question: Voices can be heard in the West saying that the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles "leaves Western Europe 'unprotected'" and that West Europeans, therefore, have to build up the arms race. It follows from your recent speeches that we must work toward a reduction and not a buildup of armaments. Do we understand you correctly?

Answer: Under present conditions, which are marked by rapid movement toward new horizons in the disarmament sphere, I think it is pointless to consider resuming the arms race.

All peoples want more reliable conditions of peace with lower levels of arms in order to allocate, quantitatively and qualitatively, increasing resources for peaceful development purposes.

Of course, the edifice of peace is itself huge and cannot be built in a day. It is being built in stages and on firm foundations. Maintaining expanding conditions of security and stability and consequently military-strategic equilibrium serves as a basis for harmonious development of East-West dialogue both on disarmament questions and also on other problems of the day.

It is also true to some extent that security policy has two sides: balanced disarmament and ensuring of an effective defense capability. Each of these has its own logic.

Nevertheless, I am firmly convinced that a synthesis of these concepts can only be based on attainment of military equilibrium and on a considerable reduction in armed forces. I am also convinced that the Treaty on Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles helps consolidate the security of all European countries.

Question: You have frequently advocated strengthening the role of the United Nations in settling complex and acute international conflicts, in particular, the Iran-Iraq war. Here, too, there are skeptics. But recently in New York, during the 42d UN General Assembly session, you had a number of important meetings and noted that the United Nations is an irreplaceable instrument for peace. What else could you say on this subject?

Answer: In my many years of political activity, I have frequently had the opportunity of drawing the attention of not only my foreign interlocutors but also Italian public opinion to the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations in resolving international conflicts.

I am really convinced that the United Nations has made a weighty contribution over these decades to stabilizing the international situation. It can also step up its peacemaking activity in the future by developing an entire system of international agreements and accords expanding the legal base and limiting opportunities to employ force.

At the present stage, I do not think that the UN Charter needs any urgent changes, since the practical work and traditions of these years have enabled the formulation of a whole series of norms and procedures that have helped to overcome sometimes complex situations not entirely envisaged by existing rules. I mean above all peacekeeping measures.

I would say rather that it is necessary to make better use of the possibilities which the UN Charter itself presents in order to approach certain questions more resolutely, in particular, the problem of preventing conflicts, which CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev talked about in his article published in Soviet newspapers 17 September this year.

As for the specific subject of the Iran-Iraq conflict, I must note with satisfaction that for the first time in its history the Security Council and above all its permanent members were unanimous in adopting Resolution 598. This resolution not only obliges the sides to cease the conflict and begin talks to establish a just and honorable peace but also provides for the opportunity to employ subsequent measures in accordance with Section 8 against the side that fails to execute it.

Security Council unity in this complex situation is a most important demand. But in the course of the diplomatic activity Italy carried out in October, when its representative chaired the Security Council, we worked in precisely this direction. This unity enabled the Security Council to give the UN secretary general a mandate of 15 October, enabling him to act with the flexibility necessary in order to convince the sides to adopt the plan to execute Resolution 598.

Italy is fully determined to do everything possible to ensure that the activity of the UN secretary general is crowned with success, since his failure would not help to strengthen the UN role that we want. As I have already mentioned, the CPSU Central Committee general secretary also pressed for a strengthening of the role of the United Nations.

I would like to hope that this coincidence of intentions with regard to resolving the Iran-Iraq conflict has been the starting point in strengthening the United Nations' role.

Question: Minister, how do you see the future development of the all-European process? What do you think of the work accomplished in the course of the Vienna meeting?

Answer: I think the process initiated with the Helsinki Final Act retains intact its potential as an instrument for maintaining dialogue, expanding cooperation, and strengthening security on our continent. At this stage of favorable development of East-West relations, the Vienna meeting underway is invested with particular responsibility: to strengthen and expand on an international basis the prospects for accords, mainly on the problem of security, which have recently been greatly developed in practicing bilateral relations.

It is quite obvious that security, in its military aspect, must be achieved in conditions of mutual trust and stability, with lower levels of armed forces and armaments, while political security must be maintained by means of the consistent rapprochement of civilized societies.

We have assessed the incumbent Soviet leadership's initiatives in this sphere. We believe they will be be specifically manifested in the course of the Vienna meeting and will help achieve constructive results in every sphere making up the all-European process, including the area of scientific cooperation, in which we have submitted a special proposal to convene a representative international meeting.

Question: Your opinion in favor of resolving complex international problems by means of talks, i.e. without employing force or threatening to employ it, along lines of building up trust and better understanding, is well-known in the USSR. How far, in your opinion, is this position shared in the world?

Answer: I am glad that people in the Soviet Union follow Italian foreign policy so attentively. However, the principle guiding Italy—the principle of resolving contentious issues at the negotiating table without using force—has been established by the UN Charter and is part of the international community's moral legacy.

States all too often ignore the high ideals expressed by the UN Charter and the rules of behavior on which they are based. It is clear that improving mutual understanding and building up international trust are two landmarks on the road toward fuller implementation of the terms of the UN Charter.

In this context, I think the all-European process on a regional level, uniting the rights of all European countries, constitutes an initiative that has enabled us to secure considerable results and contains tremendous potential.

Unfortunately, present conditions in various regions of the world do not permit us to secure general observance of the principle of nonuse of force. The existence of many dangerous seats of crisis illustrates this. However,

I am sure that mankind at the present stage of technological progress, including the arms sphere, must decide to reject violence if it does not want to jeopardize its own existence.

Question: Minister, what do you think about recent Soviet foreign policy?

Answer: The central element of the Soviet leadership's foreign policy is, in my opinion, the close linkage of the problems of security and the economy. The Soviet Union really needs to achieve a more efficient economy in order to maintain its status as a great power; at the same time, it is difficult to achieve economic stability without reducing military expenditure and redistributing funds for civilian development purposes. In this respect the Soviet Union has demonstrated strong political will by concluding the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles. In my opinion, this treaty is the best confirmation of Moscow's fundamental interests, which aim for long-term stability in international relations. This will enable USSR development aims to be achieved.

In any case the Soviet Union, whose basic priorities in foreign policy remain unchanged, is in my opinion showing more than ever a deep-rooted desire for talks, demonstrating its commitment to flexible and constructive measures that meet with understanding.

This policy, inasmuch as it is channeled toward strengthening peace and cooperation, is assessed positively by the Italian Government, which considers it to be a significant factor in improving East-West relations and in better predicting them. In fact, this policy benefits not only the Soviet people but also other peoples and benefits above all good-neighborly relations.

Italy, as a major West European country, is really interested in developing inter-European relations based more than ever on dialogue and cooperation, being convinced that developing ties between the USSR and Western Europe can make an important contribution to strengthening the detente process.

Question: Minister, what is your opinion of the relations between Western countries—Italy, in particular—and the Soviet Union?

Answer: Relations between the Soviet Union and the West are, in my opinion, characterized at present by growing interdependence and a greater degree of cooperation in various areas. The Soviet Union has in due course embarked on such development, demonstrating an advancing interest in more flexible participation in international economic relations.

Italy maintains promising relations of cooperation with the Soviet Union in every area, ranging from the political sphere—with a whole series of regular meetings, including summit meetings—to the economic, cultural, and scientific and technical spheres. These relations are characterized by a considerable degree of consistency, which enhances the level of relations between states belonging to two different socioeconomic systems.

I am sure that these assessments will be shown even more clearly during the projected visit by the CPSU Central Committee general secretary to Italy, which all our country's political forces are awaiting.

Chatham House's Eberle Interviewed on INF Treaty

PM231435 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Dec 87 First Edition p 4

[PRAVDA correspondent A. Lyutyy dispatch incorporating interview with Admiral J. Eberle, director of the Royal Institute for International Affairs: "View From Chatham House. What Admiral J. Eberle Told PRAVDA's Correspondent"; date of interview not given]

[Text] London, December—The results of the Soviet-U.S. summit have provoked a broad positive response in the British Isles. It would be no exaggeration to say that, for the inhabitants of the country where the first U.S. cruise missiles now subject to destruction are sited, the day of the signing of the USSR-US Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles was a holiday in the real sense of the word.

Meetings and demonstrations by antiwar movement activists and by ordinary citizens have taken place throughout the country in support of the results of the Washington summit. They were also held at the gates of the Greenham Common and Molesworth military bases, where the U.S. Tomahawks are deployed. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher described this act as a "superb Christmas present." Speaking in the House of Commons, the country's defense secretary, G. Younger, announced that the 16 Tomahawks at the Molesworth base are among the first West Europe-based medium-range missiles scheduled for elimination and will be taken back to the United States for destruction after ratification of the treaty. Then it will be the turn of the 96 cruise missiles based at Greenham Common.

While noting the positive nature of the impact caused here by the results of the Washington summit, one cannot, however, describe it as unequivocal. You cannot fail to detect elements in statements by a number of political leaders, including those representing the official viewpoint, which are at variance with the spirit of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles and with London's expressed readiness to promote further steps in the direction of nuclear disarmament, above all a 50% reduction in strategic arsenals.

The ink had still not dried after the signing of the treaty in Washington when right-wing circles here began to talk simultaneously about the need not only to retain but also to modernize Britain's so-called independent nuclear means. Moreover, these circles are also fighting to modernize those nuclear weapons remaining in West Europe after the removal of the medium- and shorter-range missiles. There have been many arguments in the British press to the effect that the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles poses even more acutely the problem of the tremendous "disparity" between the Warsaw Pact and NATO in the sphere of conventional armaments.

Your correspondent met with Admiral James Eberle, retired, a major British expert on military-strategic problems, former commander in chief of NATO allied forces in the Channel and the east Atlantic, and now director of the Royal Institute for International Affairs, in order to obtain answers to these questions from sufficiently authoritative circles.

"The signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles is being welcomed broadly and warmly in West Europe," J. Eberle said. "There are, of course, certain military circles which, so to speak, do not feel great enthusiasm in connection with the treaty. This is associated with the fact that these circles see not only the advantages but also the losses for themselves involved in its signing. But I am sure that ratification of the treaty accords with the interests of the United States, the Soviet Union, and West Europe.

"I believe the overwhelming majority of West Europeans, governments included, will also welcome the stress being placed on holding talks with the aim of achieving a 50% reduction in strategic armaments. But clarity must necessarily be introduced on the question of observance of the ABM Treaty.

"I must, however, say," my interlocutor continued, "that I am personally somewhat alarmed by the excessively rapid pace of the implementation of the changes. Of course, we understand that both your leader and Mr Reagan do not want to waste time, but if you try to achieve too much in too short a time, there may be a danger of considerable instability. I think it extremely sensible that Mr Gorbachev, at his news conference at the end of this visit to Washington, gave a calm, sober assessment of the success that had been achieved. We must not overstate expectations; we must proceed on the basis of real possibilities."

[Lyutyy] "You mentioned certain losses that military circles will sustain. What do you have in mind?"

[Eberle] "The removal of a whole category of nuclear weapons, marking the elimination of a rung on the ladder of escalation envisaged by the doctrine of flexible response, evokes misgivings within NATO. I personally do not think this is of substantial significance. But there is concern. Definite alarm is to be found in the FRG. The point is: Of the land-based nuclear missiles, only short-range missiles will remain in Europe after elimination of the medium- and shorter-range missiles. In the event of these missiles being used, they will land either on FRG territory, if they belong to the Warsaw Pact, or on the GDR, if they are NATO missiles. That is why statements can now be heard in the FRG regarding the fact that their country will be in the most vulnerable position in the event of a nuclear attack. However, I must say that such a viewpoint is current in certain West German military circles and the government rather than among the West German population. In this connection, I cannot help but agree with Mr Gorbachev's thought that politicians today need to pay more attention to the opinions of ordinary citizens."

"But the problems facing us," J. Eberle continued, "will become more complex, for instance, a very difficult question—conventional armaments. If you look at the situation in broad terms, you can then see the scope for joint activity by Western and Soviet academic institutes tackling disarmament problems. Our institute cooperates in joint research with the USSR Academy of Sciences World Economics and International Relations Institute. We have conducted joint studies into the problems of economic security in the world. Such cooperation must be developed."

[Lyutyy] "What is your attitude toward the calls now being heard in Britain and other West European countries to modernize those types of nuclear weapons which do not fall within the scope of the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles?"

[Eberle] "If you take the political aspect of this question rather than the military aspect, then, of course, it is regrettable that at a time when we are approving the signed treaty, we are simultaneously discussing modernization. I believe that now is an inappropriate time to talk about such things. Nonetheless, modernization must, in my opinion, be carried out."

[Lyutyy] "Sir, I think it is difficult not only for me but also for many other people to understand this thesis."

[Eberle] "I can only repeat my regret that our government has begun to talk about modernization at precisely this moment. The choice of time is always of great political importance."

[Lyutyy] "NATO leaders, and also certain political figures here in Britain, state that an imbalance in conventional armaments between NATO and the Warsaw Pact must be removed before further reductions in nuclear armaments in Europe are carried out. What could you say on this subject?"

[Eberle] "My opinion is as follows: There is approximate strategic parity in nuclear and conventional armaments between NATO and the Warsaw Pact in Europe. However, if we begin to compare any extremely narrow categories in isolation and engage in calculations for each unit of armaments, then, of course, disparity can be found. For instance, the Warsaw Pact has more tanks than NATO. But we must take into consideration which tanks are old and which are new. We must also consider whether, say, France's and Bulgaria's tanks have been taken into account and how these types of tanks correlate. If all this is taken into account, the picture is very complex. I recently took part in preparing a paper which presented a far more favorable picture for NATO than is usual with regard to the correlation of conventional armaments."

"We must also take into consideration not only the two blocs' specific arms systems but also their military doctrines. I believe the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee's Berlin conference made a sincere attempt to promote examination and discussion of doctrines. I must say that the proposal on a reduction in conventional armaments put forward by the Warsaw Pact countries in Budapest did not receive an answer from NATO, and this is regrettable."

Before we parted we once again returned to the treaty signed in Washington. This is a small step, Eberle thinks, but a step in the right direction. We must move further in this direction.

It is obvious, however, that such movement may only continue successfully in the appropriate psychological atmosphere and in the presence of firm political will on the part of West European governments to promote the process of further arms reductions. Any measures designed for "compensation" or "arms upgrading" by NATO in the sphere of both nuclear and conventional weapons cannot be regarded as anything other than an attack on the Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles and a risky game with the fate of the peoples of Europe and the world.

Gorbachev To Receive West Germany's Strauss

LD251746 Moscow TASS in English 1611 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 25 (TASS)—Franz-Josef Strauss, prime minister of Bavaria Land (FRG), chairman of the Christian Social Union Party, is due to arrive on a visit in the Soviet Union on December 28 at the invitation of the State Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers, a spokesman for the press centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry said today.

Lothar Spaeth, prime minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg Land (FRG), vice-chairman of the Christian Democratic Union Party, is to pay a visit to the Soviet Union in February 1988 at the invitation of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation.

Franz-Josef Strauss and Lothar Spaeth are expected to be received by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Latin America & Caribbean

Nicaraguan, U.S. Central American Policies Viewed

PM231427 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[Andrey Zagorskiy "Commentator's Column": "Breaking—Not Building"]

[Text] Since the presidents of the five Central American states signed agreements in Guatemala on 7 August aimed at a political settlement of the regional conflict, a great deal has been done to finally get the peacemaking process moving. This applies primarily to the Nicaraguan Government, which has persistently and consistently sought ways to implement the accords, in particular the most important provisions relating to a cease-fire. The announcement of a unilateral cessation of offensive operations by the Sandinist People's Army during the Christmas holiday is new proof of this.

Recently Nicaraguan President D. Ortega produced yet another initiative designed to alleviate the situation in Central America, which is still tense. It is characteristic that his proposal is addressed directly to the United States, whose ruling circles, as very many people in the region acknowledge today, are almost the main protagonist in the conflict which has been smoldering for many years. In an interview with France's LE MONDE D. Ortega, in particular, advocated holding talks with the United States on a mutual security pact envisaging a system of verification. He also advocated establishing a balance of forces in Central America, which, in his opinion, must lead to the normalization of relations between Washington and Managua.

Of course, the very idea that Nicaragua could represent a danger to the United States seems somewhat strange. But what can you do if people in Washington continually repeat these absurd claims, shamelessly manipulating them?! Now, when the implementation of the Guatemala accords is experiencing very great difficulties and new encouragement and assistance are so necessary, the U.S. Administration is once again playing its favorite card, kicking up a fuss about the "military threat" from Managua and, at the same time, giving its allies modern military equipment.

The conclusions being drawn here are most forceful and, to be blunt, advantageous for the White House, which is continuing its course of interfering in the internal affairs of Nicaragua and supporting the contras. U.S. Vice President Bush, for instance, stated openly that he is "convinced that the Sandinistas do not intend to honestly implement the terms of the peace plan for a

settlement in Central America." A White House spokesman noted at a briefing that these remarks "reflect the administration viewpoint." Whereupon supporters of a rigid Central American course, taking advantage of the situation, called for new funds to be given to the contra gangs. The Congress is already deciding the question of allocating them several million dollars by way of "humanitarian" aid. Moreover, there is again talk about the administration's long-standing request for $270 million—this time for military aid. But to break not to build, as they say—the United States has long been trying to destroy independent Nicaragua.

The difference in approach between Washington and Managua to the question of a peaceful settlement in Central America is obvious. It only remains to deplore the fact that at this extremely complex and crucial period for Central America, Washington's peace-loving words are strongly at variance with its actions. Restraint, realism, and goodwill: These are the only means capable of untangling the conflict.

U.S. Contra Funds Approval 'Contemptible'

PA231300 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 0000 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Commentary by Vyacheslav Rostovsev]

[Text] The White House and the U.S. Congress Conciliatory Commission have decided to give the Nicaraguan contras a Christmas gift: $8 million. Motivated by their tutors' new demonstration of generosity, the mercenaries embarked on another adventure: They began a new, large-scale offensive in the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast area. The contras' military operations have thrilled Washington. The White House spokesman described them as quite promising. Do you not think that this U.S. Government position is cynical, considering the existence of the Esquipulas II agreements, which stipulate that military operations and aid and support to mercenary groups must cease?

Washington explains its position in the following manner: The contras must be helped; they must be strong to carry out military operations that will force the Sandinist Government to change. In short, the U.S. Administration wants to dismantle the Sandinist directorate, or better yet, to liquidate it through the use of force. This objective has been and continues to be U.S. officials' prime goal.

This contemptible game with the Esquipulas agreements has been carried out to attain this goal. It is said that the contras supposedly represent the force that is able to assist in accelerating compliance with these agreements. At the same time, a long-term military aid program is being made for these counterrevolutionary groups. This means that the Central American peace plan will permanently suffer blows from the United States. This position was described by U.S. Congressman [name indistinct] as an insult to the regional peace efforts and an incentive to the continuation of war in Central America.

Nicaragua Denounces New U.S. Aid to Contras

LD231831 Moscow TASS in English 1616 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Managua December 23 TASS—The Government of Nicaragua firmly denounces the new U.S. financial handouts of 8.1 million dollars to the contras, approved by the American Congress under the pressure of the Reagan administration. This is said in a note of Nicaragua's Foreign Ministry which was distributed here on Tuesday and sent to the American authorities. Such a step on the part of Washington testifies to its gross violation of international law norms, absolute disregard for the decisions of the International Court in the Hague which demanded that the United States should stop all aggressive actions against Nicaragua, the desire to thwart the Guatemala accords. These accords aimed at attaining durable and lasting peace in Central America, are known to have been signed by the presidents of five countries of the region at a meeting which was held in Guatemala early in August this year.

Blackmail and insolent lies have become the tools of the international terrorism policy, carried out by the United States with a view of preventing self-determination of states which stepped on the path of independent development, the note underlines. This is particularly obvious by Nicaragua's example. Advocating in word the termination of the war in that country which Washington is conducting with the help of puppet Somoza formations, the American Administration in deed is building up deliveries of weapons which they use for brutal repressions against Nicaraguan civilians.

Expressing energetic protest against the United States' new financial handouts to the contras, the Government of Nicaragua, the note says, reserves the right of taking proper steps to strengthen its national security.

The Foreign Ministry of Nicaragua has urged the world public to denounce the new ominous action committed a few days ago by the contras, who fired an American-made anti-aircraft missile "Red Eye" at a Nicaraguan civil plane. Two crew members were killed and two were injured. The plane in flames was compelled to make an emergency landing on the territory of Costa Rica.

Contras Launch 'Terrorist Sorties' at Christmas

LD260054 Moscow TASS in English 2156 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Managua December 25 TASS—The hired Somozista terrorists have violated the two-day Christmas ceasefire and made several attempts at launching terrorist sorties against the peaceful inhabitants, taking advantage of the ceasefire by the Sandinist People's Army.

As the republic's Defense Ministry said today, over the past twenty-four hours the ceasefire has been seven times violated by the contra gangs. In the early hours of December 24 the mercenaries launched an armed attack against San Jose community in Nueva Guinea area, as a result of which one person was killed and one injured. The attack was repulsed by the local self-defence detachment. Five Somozistas were killed. The mercenaries were trying to attack the positions of the Sandinist People's Army in Jinotega and Chontales departments as well as in the southern autonomous district, and launched several attacks agaisnt cooperatives where ten mercenaries were killed.

Reconciliation Process in Nicaragua Assessed
LD272219 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 27 Dec 87

[From the "International Panorama" program, correspondent Yuriy Baranov report from Managua—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Correspondent Yuriy Baranov reports from Nicaragua on the national reconciliation process, noting that there is hope in the air and summarizing the tremendous economic damage inflicted by 7 years of war. Rightwing forces are attempting to place the blame on the Sandinists, in particular the Democratic Coordinating Board, whose vice president, Ramiro Gurdian, gives an interview to Baranov:

[Baranov] It is here, at the Camino Real Hotel, where not even every bourgeois person can afford to stay, that the bosses from the supreme council of private employers, part of the Coordinating Board, are holding their conference. Today we were promised an interview by one of them. But we shall have to wait a bit. National topics are being discussed in the fashionable hotel, where even the televisions are tuned to U.S. television channels.

We are talking to Ramiro Gurdian, vice president of the Democratic Coordinating Board. [video cuts to show Baranov standing next to Gurdian in hotel grounds]

[Baranov addresses Gurdian in Spanish, with superimposed Russian translation] How do you see the process of national reconciliation in Nicaragua?

[Gurdian in Spanish with superimposed Russian translation] I have yet to see any sign at all of such a process, though I hope that national reconciliation will, nonetheless, get under way. There are certain premises, and I think that the Soviet Union could do its bit by stopping its military assistance to the Sandinist Government. It should become democratic, give the people freedom, and liberate industry—that is what I would welcome.

[Baranov] What is your approach to the domestic policy process?

[Gurdian] There has been a complete departure form the original program. There is one party in control of Nicaragua; the army and the police are in the hands of the party and not of the state.

[Baranov] What do you see as the alternative?

[Gurdian] The alternative is for the Sandinist Front to carry out democratization in two important aspects. First, in the economic sphere: The country is worn out. There is no sign of any progress from your assistance; have you ever thought about where the Soviet aid disappears to? As far as I can see, it is having no effect on the people's situation.

[Baranov] What is the second aspect of the alternative?

[Gurdian] What is needed is for the United States, the Soviet Union, Western and Eastern Europe, and South America to influence the Sandinist Front. All of us together must create a government of national unity. That indeed was the original program: a truly mixed economy, democratic development, and nonalignment.

[Baranov] In what do you see features of democratization?

[Gurdian] This is an interesting feature—I am to appear on Russian television. In any case, I hope that I am to appear. The attitude of the Soviet Union to international affairs is reassuring. I think the meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev will bear fruit in Nicaragua as well. Indeed all of us here are Nicaraguans, contras as well as Sandinistas. Therefore, we say both to the former and the latter: That is enough killing. Let us sit down and look for a way out all together. Let a Sandinist, let us say Daniel Ortega, sit on one side, with me on the other side, and somebody from the contras on the other. That would be the ideal. I hope that you will interview people from the contras and the Sandinistas as well.

[Video shifts to show the exterior of a building marked "Palacio Nacional."] [Baranov] Two days later [as heard] Daniel Ortega, the President of Nicaragua, gave an interview for Soviet television [video shows Baranov seated in a room interviewing Ortega]

[Baranov] What can you say about the Coordinating Board, which did not take part in the general election of 1984 but which is now calling for a government of national unity to be set up? They say that is in accordance with the original program of the board.

[Ortega] The Coordinating Board and its information organs occupy a position that contradicts the revolutionary process and dovetails with the counterrevolutionary plan of the U.S. Government. That is where we see the danger. If the rightwing forces and leftist parties are not completely serious and responsible about dialogue, then there will be no progress, and dialogue will be frozen.

[Baranov] They talk here of democratization, referring to the Guatemala accords. How does the revolutionary government pose this question?

[Ortega] Democratization took place when the working people and the broad masses gained access to power. If we opened up a wider field of activity for opposition groups and even political groups that are antagonistic to the revolutionary process under the Guatemala agreements, that would be defined as giving opposition groups the opportunity to put forward their position. But we will not allow rightwing groups, under the slogan of democratization, to entrench themselves in imperialist positions promoting U.S. aggression.

[Baranov] They also assert that if the USSR, let us say, stopped providing military assistance to Nicaragua, the situation would be normalized.

[Ortega] If it were to be normalized, it would only be to the advantage of the United States, which is striving to dominate and control the region's economy and to oppress our countries. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, provides disinterested aid to the Nicaraguan people, economic and defense aid. Thanks to this aid, we have managed to inflict strategic defeat on the mercenaries and to prepare for the event of intervention by U.S. troops. Undoubtedly, if there was no war on in our country, then the aid of the Soviet Union would be concentrated more heavily in the economic sphere. [passage omitted]

Cuba Condemns Israeli 'Genocide' of Palestinians

LD250735 Moscow TASS in English 0726 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Havana December 25 TASS—TASS correspondent Sergey Sereda reports:

The Cuban Foreign Ministry denounced genocide by the Israeli invaders against the population on the Jordan West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Trampling underfoot basic international norms, the Israeli Government, points out a statement released by the Ministry on Thursday, commits criminal acts of terror against the courageous Palestinian people. The international community is following with growing concern the development on the occupied Arab territories where dozens of people were killed and hundreds were wounded or thrown into prisons. Terrorism by Israeli authorities leads to growing tension in the region and puts into jeopardy peace and security on the earth.

The government and people of Cuba, the document points out, again declare their invariable solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinian people and call on the international community to demand, by joint efforts, an end to terror on the occupied territories.

Political & Social

Police Break Up 2d Antiwar Demonstration

AU261857 Paris AFP in English 1747 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, Dec 26 (AFP)—Soviet police Saturday for the second straight day broke up a demonstration by protesters outside the Soviet Defence Ministry who were calling for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, one of the protest's organisers said.

Andrey Krivov, a member of the dissident East-West Trust Group, said that the demonstration by eight people was stopped "after a few seconds" when they produced placards reading "Stop the occupation of Afghanistan" and "Peace to the land of Afghanistan". The eight were taken away in a bus.

Two of the protesters were "badly beaten", including one, Yelena Grigoreva, who was reportedly hit on the head and taken to hospital after losing consciousness, Mr Krivov said.

Three of the demonstrators were released after questioning, but the others were ordered to appear in court to face "hooliganism" charges, he said.

On Friday, according to Mr Krivov, two protesters who demonstrated in the same place in favour of a withdrawal of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan were arrested after three minutes and sentenced to 15 days' detention.

The demonstrations were staged to mark the eighth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan on December 27, 1979. But Mr Krivov said his group did not plan to demonstrate on Sunday.

In another development, human rights activist Valeriy Senderov told AFP Saturday that one of his collaborators, who is also a member of the Trust Group, had been arrested since Thursday and sent to a psychiatric hospital in the Ukrainian town of Lvov.

Nikolay Margurrin had been compiling information on the use of torture in Soviet prisons, according to Mr Senderov.

Eight 'Refusniks' Arrested in Demonstration

AU281237 Paris AFP in English 1229 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, Dec 28 (AFP)—Eight Soviet "refuzniks" who have applied for permission to emigrate to Israel were arrested Monday as they demonstrated outside the Institute for Transport Construction in northern Moscow.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent at the scene said a large number of uniformed and plain clothes security officers led the demonstrators to a bus parked nearby.

Among those arrested were Sergey Marchian, who has been waiting two years for an emigration visa, and Aleksandr Sterkin.

Some 10 people in civilian clothes, including a woman who said she worked at the institute, then surrounded the AFP correspondent and told him he should not have attended an unauthorized gathering.

The institute was apparently chosen as a site for the demonstration because one of the "refuzniks" was employed there.

CPSU Politburo Discusses Restructuring 24 Dec

LD242059 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] In the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. At a routine meeting on 24 December, the Politburo discussed proposals to introduce amendments to the USSR and union republics' legislation on labor, connected with restructuring the management of the economy. These amendments will bring current labor legislation into line with the law on state enterprises which is coming into force with other recently adopted decisions of the USSR Government.

It is planned to significantly extend the powers of labor collectives in resolving labor issues, to increase the activity of trade unions, to strengthen the guarantees of the rights of working people, and also to create the necessary conditions for further strengthening labor discipline and encouraging conscientious and highly productive labor. The approved proposals on the issues mentioned will be submitted to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the highest bodies of state power of the union republics.

The Politburo supported a proposal by the USSR Gosagroprom and the Union Council of Kolkhozes on the expediency of introducing supplements and amendments to the Model Charter of a kolkhoz. It is envisioned that a draft Model Charter of a kolkhoz will be published in the press for wide discussion, after which it will be presented, according to established procedure for the consideration of the fourth all-union congress of kolkhoz workers.

Measures on improving the use of water resources, the provision of water for the national economy and the population, which were presented by the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium and the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences Presidium and which have been considered by the USSR Council of Ministers,

were approved by the Politburo. The relevant planning and economic bodies have been recommended to take the proposals mentioned into account while elaborating the draft plans of economic and social development for the 13th and subsequent 5-year plans, and to envision specific measures in the annual plans of the current 5-year plan for the thrifty use of water resources, taking into account the implementation of the new economic mechanism.

The Politburo outlined measures in connection with the forthcoming celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. The restructuring of the activity of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry and increasing its role in the system of economic, scientific-technical, and trading contacts between the USSR and foreign countries was considered. It was stressed that under the conditions of a fundamental reform of foreign economic contacts, the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry is called upon to cooperate closely with the ministries and departments of the USSR, to establish broad contacts with associations of business cooperation, and also with other interested organizations and firms in the Soviet Union and abroad.

The Politburo approved the results of the meeting between Comrade Gorbachev and King Husayn and the talks between Comrade Gromyko and King Husayn, and also the talks between Comrades Ryzhkov, Shevardnadze, and Yazov and representatives of the Jordanian leadership. It was noted that as a result of this meeting and talks, relations between the Soviet Union and Jordan have received further development in the spirit of mutual trust and cooperation. The importance of further deepening cooperation with Jordan and other Arab countries in the cause of consolidating peace, unblocking regional conflicts, and the finding of a just solution, acceptable to all interested parties, of the Near East problem, the acuteness of which is felt with particular force today, was stressed. The Politburo also adopted decisions on a number of other issues of the country's social and economic development, and the foreign political activity of the CPSU.

Supreme Soviet Presidium Reviews Activities

LD251939 Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] At a meeting here in Moscow the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has considered a report about the activity of the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet national parliament, this year.

It singled out the importance of foreign trips by Soviet MP's, who visited the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, Scandinavian, Arab, Latin American and African countries, in all 53 different countries. Soviet MP's used their foreign trips to explain largescale foreign policy initiatives of the USSR.

The key Soviet foreign policy initiatives in this year were a program of complete elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, the necessity of transition to new political thinking, creation of a nuclear free nonviolent world and setting up a comprehensive system of international security.

Soviet parliamentary delegations also informed other countries in detail about the process of accelerating the social and economic development in the USSR.

A resolution adopted at the meeting speaks of the need to further expand interparliamentary relations next year. Great attention will be paid to ratification of the INF Treaty and making headway on other key directions of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Yeltsin Dismissal Due to His 'Avant-Gardism'

PM241541 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 51, 20 Dec 87 p 15

[Moscow University Professor Gavriil Popov article: "The Kind of Perestroyka We Want. Some Ideas About Political Avant-Gardism"]

[Text] My notes published by MN a month ago, analyzing my first impressions of Boris Yeltsin's dismissal from the post of the Moscow Party organization leader, evoked numerous telephone calls and letters c/o MOSCOW NEWS to say nothing of dozens of questions raised during my recent meetings with young economicists [as published] and readers of MN. I think all of these entitle me to another attempt at singling out the "rational kernel" from among the event's numerous repercussions.

Without naming the authors of particular letters or questions, I would like to note that many of them believe the former First Secretary of the Moscow Party Committee had no special concept of perestroyka to speak of. I believe that he had one, and presented it in his address to the 27th CPSU Congress and other public speeches. He put that special concept to life in his practical policies, too. I would define his position as "authoritarian because it is the leaders rather than the masses who are proclaimed the main motive force of perestroyka. It is avant-gardism because, as an enthusiastic supporter of perestroyka, Boris Yeltsin tried to achieve its goals by leaps and bounds, while ignoring the objective reality of numerous problems that demand to be solved step by step through sustained and strenuous daily effort. His avant-gardism is conservative because its methods are doomed to failure and can therefore do nothing but discredit perestroyka and play into the hands of our conservatives, regardless of the avant-gardists' subjective intentions. To prove this, it is enough to recall that some of the speakers at the Plenary Meeting of the Moscow Party Committee condemned Yeltsin for preferring spontaneous meetings with Muscotives in the

streets and visits to factories and institutes to participating in plenary meetings of district party committees. In fact this is the criticism of the entire new style of leadership approved by the people and the party.

To my mind, the truth of the matter lies in the fact that a certain part of our society, avant-gardists included, see the solution to the perestroyka problems not in restructuring the mechanism of the party, state and public life, and not in putting to life the concept of radical economic reform, along with the organically related democratization of society. They see the solution to perestroyka problems in changing personnel.

Such a concept reflects the views of a certain group of the state machinery personnel who implicitly believe in the omnipotence of the state machinery, the leaders' ability to resolve any problem without ever stirring from office or stepping down from the rostrum. This group of personnel see the absence of fitting leaders within the framework of the state apparatus as the only reason for slow progress.

Furthermore, this concept reflects the views of the best part of our apparatus personnel who see their duty in serving the people. However, they have been disposing of the valuables created and belonging to the working people for so long that their concern for the interests of the people is conceivable in just one form—that of paternal tutelage over the working people, of guardianship and high-handed benefactions from above, whether in terms of material benefits or democratic institutions.

Finally, the concept has its base in those conservative strata of the population who fear the prospect of transition to the economic methods of management. Wage levelling has broken them from the habit of hard work. They have been corrupted by unearned if low wages and bonuses they have received for decades. They have lost the habit of independent thinking and got accustomed to the role of executives. They fear the prospect of having to earn their wages and bear responsibility. The view prevailing in these quarters puts the blame on bald leadership. One almost hears the echo of Russian peasants' age-long dreams about a good tsar: replace the bad tsar with a good one, and life would be better.

In the final analysis, this is just another attempt at finding an easy and quick way to catch fish without getting wet. History knows no country or people who have managed to resolve their cardinal problems this way.

Moscow's experience showed that the said concept brought a second wave of personnel reshuffle, giving no guarantee against a third or a fourth one. The unity of words and deeds, which is the only reliable criterion for an objective evaluation of personnel suitability for perestroyka purposes, was not taken into consideration, so one could only hope for the first secretary's knack of finding the right people to superintend perestroyka.

Over the years of stagnation, numerous "black holes" accumulated in Moscow's municipal economy. A kind of record was set even by public toilets numbering one per 20,000 residents (to say nothing of visitors). No apparatus can possibly darn these holes, unassisted. What we need is an organized movement of the masses, the conversion of aloof bystanders or sympathizers into a true motive force of perestroyka. But the avant-gardists' concept does not provide for this.

But wasn't Boris Yeltsin one of the leading lights in the struggle against the braking mechanism? Yes, he was. I am perfectly aware that he had to engage in combatting the most powerful task force of the said mechanism, its Moscow division, where people like Tregubov, Churbanov, Shchelokov and Sushkov thrived. It must be acknowledged, too, that Yeltsin did not only overcome their resistance, but also dealt them crushing blows, for which he was greatly admired by all honest Muscovites. The one important thing that escaped their notice was the fact that success on that front was assured not so much by the First Secretary's personal courage, as by the vigorous effort of the Party's best forces and the support of its leadership.

I am deeply convinced that perestroyka can be accomplished only if it succeeds in involving the entire people and becomes the vital interest of every one of us.

The efforts and support of the masses ought to have been mobilized to realize the constructive programme of perestroyka. To achieve this, corrections ought to have been introduced into the understanding of the Party's role as the political vanguard of society (and the role of the Moscow Party organization as the forefront battalion of the vanguard) so as to bring the Party's methods into conformity with the requirements of the new stage in the development of socialism in this country. That was not done. Hence the stubborn adherence to the "forceful" personnel policy which is unable to resolve the problems of today under today's circumstances.

The situation in Moscow presupposed only one hero of perestroyka. The rest of us were to admire and applaud the solo performance in this one-man theatre. As is well known from Marx' and Engels' works, benefaction from above invariably degenerates into one or another variety of "barrack communism". In our national history, the calls for "imposing the revolution", "forcing" it and "reshuffling the personnel" were widely promoted by Trotskiy, and consistently used in practice by Stalin.

Such are the roots of the present-day avant-gardism, the haven for the Devils of perestroyka. One can easily predict its possible consequences should the avant-gardist sentiments be allowed to prevail.

Presumably, having spread the "forceful" personnel policy to all levels of state control throughout the country, its advocates would eventually realize, sooner or later, that they were hopelessly lost in the labyrinth they had

promised to find a way out from. At that point they would have to come back to the concept of real perestroika as it is formulated today presupposing the involvement of every citizen in the renovation of society through the mechanisms of democratization - or else to continue "exposing enemies" preventing them from achieving the successes promised to the people. Should that happen, the ruthless logic of high-handed management by decree would lead once again to the situation known to us from the 1930s.

To my mind, the situation is further aggravated by the fact that there are quite a few undoubtedly honest, sincere and brave Communists and competent leaders among the supporters of avant-gardism, generally apt to abuse pseudorevolutionary rhetoric. When people like that (of whom Boris Yeltsin is undoubtedly one) discover that the problem lies not so much in replacing the crew, as in rebuilding the ship, when they realize that the task might take years of hard work without tangible results, they tend to panic. Then come the doubtful calls for an unprepared, untimely, unsupported by the majority (and consequently doomed) attack. When such calls evoke no response, are ignored or rejected, the question of resignation arises. Thus, the avant-gardism of perestroyka turns into the avant-gardism of defeatism.

Boris Yeltsin's resignation per se is an event common enough for any democratic society. I personally find the leader openly admitting his failure and asking for a more suitable job very much to my taste. However, the public reaction to the resignation proved much stronger than the event deserved. I think this is not due entirely to our society not being fully prepared for glasnost, whose scale in the given case was unprecedented in the entire postwar history of this country (yet found unsatisfactory by some). The matter is more serious than that.

Although the letters and notes I've received breathe with passionate support for perestroyka, I found certain conclusions alarming. "His resignation is the triumph of perestroyka opponents", "The departure of the First Secretary of the Moscow Party Committee is the end of perestroyka", etc. Where does this personification of perestroyka come from? Apparently, it dates back to the tradition of the personality cult when the nation's and the Party's cause was considered the personal quest of one man, one leader. But my letters have come from the people who grew up in different times. Populated by personages hardly suitable for becoming objects of personality cult.

The more I think about the situation, the better I understand that in the given case we have come across one of the most dangerous phenomena of the perestroyka process. Political avant-gardism appears to be supported by a sizable part of the working people who would like to have perestroyka accomplished by somebody else and presented to them as a gift on a silver platter. For supporters like these, who see perestroyka as an exploit of individual heroes, the resignation of their idol is tantamount to the end of the world, a tragedy. Figuratively speaking, they would like to sit through the cold stormy period in their warm flats expecting "someone from the outside" to change winter for spring.

Sentiments like these provide the culture medium for political avant-gardism. On the one hand, they are utterly unable to further the cause of perestroyka, and foster a craving for pseudorevolutionary phraseology and ultraperestroyka slogans that disguise lack of faith in the workers' active role in perestroyka. On the other hand, it is precisely in this "waiting room" that the myth of individual heroes about to work wonders for all is being created. Here again an analogy from our national history suggests itself, I mean the theories of "the hero" and "the crowd".

Thus, political avant-gardism of some and passivity of others walk hand in hand—backwards, not forwards. But our marching orders are different. We can't wait for perestroyka to be accomplished by somebody else. We must act, each and every one of us. There are ample opportunities for urgent action today. Since the resistance to perestroyka is not subsiding, it adds urgency to the need for concerted effort by the healthy elements in our society to overcome the resistance—even if we see people we used to admire and respect among the resisters.

Democratization Does Not Mean Liberalization

PM261909 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 87 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Democracy and Initiative. Placing Public Activeness in the Service of Restructuring"]

[Text] Restructuring is inconceivable without reliance on the masses' creativity. It presupposes the all-around development of democracy and socialist self-management, the encouragement of initiative and informal activity [samodeyatelnost], the strengthening of discipline and order, and the expansion of glasnost.

Our democracy gives the people's masses a real opportunity to influence policy and to create it in the interests of the country and the cause of peace. Even the initial experience of restructuring cogently shows this. The work of public organizations and creative unions has become markedly more active. Democracy in the production unit is developing, and opportunities for mass monitoring in the preparation and adoption of decisions are expanding. The open discussion of the most acute, vital problems of our life and of the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development and keen participation by working people in forming plans for housing and cultural construction and in improving public education, health care, and the social and consumer service sphere are becoming the rule. All this is natural, since the ultimate aim of restructuring is to involve every working person in the management of society and to transform him into the genuine master of the country.

Democratization presupposes developing the initiative and enhancing the role and responsibility of local organs of power, public organizations, and institutions and ensuring openness and, most importantly, efficiency in their activity. It must be remembered that if worrying problems are not solved in a timely way by organs of power, attempts to resolve them by other means are inevitable. It still often happens that people speak out at meetings, write to newspapers, and appeal to leadership bodies but fail to see any real improvements. So various new, in many respects unusual, and as yet unfamiliar manifestations of initiative "from below" are emerging. How should they be assessed? There is just one criterion: Everything that benefits socialism and democracy must be supported "from above."

The creation of the Soviet Children's Fund named for V.I. Lenin can serve as a positive example of popular initiative. Representatives of public organizations and labor collectives, party and soviet personnel, teachers, and cultural figures joined forces for the sake of a noble goal—providing social and moral assistance to orphaned children. Without supplanting state organs, the fund tries to mobilize the efforts of millions of people to provide nationwide assistance to children.

It would be wrong to suppose that the democratization of all spheres of our life is a smooth, conflict-free process. At present in the country there are over 30,000 informal [samodeyatelnyy] associations. They organize people's leisure, protect nature and monuments, and study the homeland's culture, among other things. The editorial mail contains many letters whose authors ask: What attitude should be adopted toward the activity of these associations? It is impossible to give an unequivocal answer in this case. Naturally, by no means everything has been straightened out in the associations' work, but many of their initiatives deserve support. They require both material assistance, and a real legal foundation.

Most members of informal associations are honest people, patriots who are sincerely concerned about the fate of the homeland's culture, nature conservation, and a solicitous attitude toward national traditions and values. Complex tasks confront workers on our ideological front in this connection. They must learn to carry out living work with the masses and boldly conduct arguments. Activeness, assertiveness, competence, the ability to conduct a healthy debate and to listen to all "pros" and "cons," and, most importantly of all, honesty in everything—that is what must guide our agitation and propaganda workers. It must never be forgotten that Soviet patriotism is distinguished by its clear sociopolitical content, is indissolubly linked with communist ideological commitment, and presupposes a firm class standpoint.

But there are some informal associations whose leadership includes rogues and demagogues who preach chauvinist, anti-Semitic, and Zionist views beneath the banner of jingoism and try to revise our motherland's history from bourgeois nationalist and other unscientific standpoints.

There are also groups that under the label of informal organizations openly carry out provocative work, advocate the creation of opposition parties and "free" trade unions, and propagandize ersatz culture while portraying it as true values. Their activity sometimes acquires a manifestly illegal [antipravovyy] character: Without the authorities' consent they organize demonstrations and sometimes even disturbances and illegally print and circulate documents hostile to socialism.

It is these malicious phrasemongers that our ideological opponents who cherish the dream of establishing bourgeois-style "pluralism" in the Soviet Union are gambling on. But it is high time that the people who like fishing in troubled waters realized: Our course is not toward Western-style liberalization but toward the deepening and expansion of socialist democracy and the people's self-management. Genuine democracy does not exist outside the law. Outside the law it turns into anarchy. At the same time the law is really effective only in conditions of democracy.

Efficiency in the work of state organs and public organizations is inconceivable without an improvement in Soviet people's general political culture, without the creation of a healthy moral atmosphere and consideration of public opinion, and without popular initiative. The culture of democracy must be displayed at all levels and in all spheres of society. Much work is required to organize productive contacts between state organs, public organizations, and informal associations. This is an important task of party, Komsomol, and trade union organs. Of course, it is not a question of replacing some organizations by others, but of ensuring their joint constructive work in the interests of restructuring, the interests of socialism.

Socialist democracy creates favorable conditions for open competition between intellects and human capabilities and ensures the implementation of a strong social policy and the satisfaction of the working people's vital interests. It is important to foster in people a taste for independence and responsibility in approaching social problems and to improve self-management as power of the people exercised by the people themselves in the interests of the people. Broad scope for activity is opening up before us now. The goal that informal associations too must seek is to channel people's activeness in a positive direction and to engage in real, useful work.

The development of the people's informal activity and the masses' initiative presupposes work by socialist institutions of people's power that ensures that each person can see for himself from his own experience the irreversibility of the democratic transformations. There is no need to fear popular initiative, no matter what sphere it is displayed in. It is necessary to seek ways of drawing the attention of the broad masses to a particular important problem and mobilizing them to solve it constructively. This is socialist democracy in action, for the people are the chief protagonists of restructuring.

Economist Criticizes Stalin's Methods

LD242320 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] A few days ago we offered you, the listeners, a questionnaire on restructuring in which we asked you to give your opinions and thoughts on this subject, and it must be said that we have received very many letters, about 500. They have not been sorted out or examined in detail yet, but even a first glance at them allows one to see your profound interest in all the processes that are currently underway in our society. Your letters also show genuine interest in history, in its brighter pages and bitter lessons. It is a kind of glance into the future against the background of the path we have taken, or thoughts on mistakes. Here are lines from a letter, an unsigned one, unfortunately: One has to speak less about fulfilling a 5-year plan in 2-3 years because it is clear that this only creates nervousness and disproportion in production and upsets planned economy.

It is precisely 60 years ago, in December 1927, that the 15th party congress took place which, as is known, adopted the directives for the first 5-year plan. An article by Doctor of Economic Sciences Otto Rudolfovich Latsis, published in the magazine KOMMUNIST, is devoted to a deep scientific analysis of that period. The article is entitled "Problems of Pace in Socialist Construction". I would recommend you to take the latest issue of KOMMUNIST and to read this deep and very interesting article. Our correspondent Boris Simonov met the author of the article. Let us listen to the recording:

[Begin recording] [Simonov] If we come back to the subject of your research—you said that Stalin wanted to speed up certain features of the country's industrialization and that that was a mistake.

[Latsis] One should say that for a certain time up to the end of 1927 and including the 15th congress, he stood for absolutely correct Leninist ideas in economics. He stood for the policies of a proportional and balanced development designed not for leaps but for what is called a prolonged maximum of development pace, and the 15th congress led by Stalin adopted such documents. Those were collective documents expressing the economic policy that originated under Lenin's guidance and was developed by such prominent party theorists in economics as Bukharin, in the first place, and Dzerzhinskiy before him, or such economists as Kuybyshev, or Krzhizhanovskiy, chief of the State Planning Committee, and earlier, Nogin...

[Simonov interrupts] Radzutak.

[Latsis] Undoubtedly Radzutak, undoubtedly Mantsev—this name remains in the shadows to a considerable degree but he was, one could say, Dzerzhinskiy's right hand in the Supreme National Economy Council. But, at the same time, as early as in the first 5-year period, Stalin considerably undermined the 5-year plan that had been outlined. Of course, when subjecting decisions made in those years to a critical analysis, we should criticize Stalin not for speeding up industrialization—that was the party's correct policy—but for the fact that he wrecked an already sped-up and adopted 5-year plan which had already stipulated strenuous and high, though still feasible, paces, by further leaps which were already of a venturesome nature and not feasible. Why he received support in that is a separate issue, an issue of politics. He used, of course, the social drive of a young working mass which was not politically educated. He endowed them with a voice, he tried and succeeded in gaining their support, being the first person in the party. And he gained their support thanks to a certain revolutionary impatience inherent in that mass, whereas he, as the supreme leader and a person distinguished by a high level of political and scientific understanding, should have restrained that excessive revolutionary impatience in that case, the way—if we draw a remote parallel—Lenin used all his authority to restrain the revolutionary impatience of the proletarian mass in 1918 regarding the issues of the Brest peace treaty and internal policy. It would have been easier by far for Stalin to do that in 1928-29 but he set himself the opposite task; rather, he exploited the revolutionary impatience of the backward working mass to achieve his own goals in politics. [end recording]

CPSU's Razumovskiy on Reports, Elections

PM241301 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Dec 87 Second Edition pp 1-2

[Interview with G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, by V. Kozhemyako, PRAVDA editor for the Party Life Department: "The Party Committee and Restructuring"; place and date not given]

[Text] Party committee plenums and meetings of Communists are now being held in the party to discuss the elective organs' reports on work in guiding restructuring. V. Kozhemyako, PRAVDA editor for the Party Life Department, asked G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to say how the reports are being conducted, what problems Communists are raising, and what conclusions follow from the discussion.

[Kozhemyako] As is known, the decision to hold party committee plenums and meetings of Communists with reports by elective organs on their leadership of restructuring was adopted by the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum. The tasks and procedure for conducting reports were later concretized in a Central Committee Politburo resolution. Would you please, Georgiy Petrovich, describe in greater detail the significance of this general political campaign?

[Razumovskiy] The practice of party organs' reports to the committees which elected them or to meetings of Communists is an immutable norm of party life and a

specific manifestation of our party's collectivist nature and profound democratism. It stems from the guiding principle of the party's organizational structure, life, and activity—the principle of democratic centralism. This is essentially the practical realization of Lenin's thesis that "all officials, all leading collegiums, all party establishments are elective, accountable, and replaceable." Being the nucleus of the political system of Soviet society, the party sets an example of strict observance of the principles of socialist democratism and the organization of all its life on a profoundly democratic basis. This is one specific form of manifestation of its leading and directing role. I will remind you that the 27th CPSU Congress advanced the task of enhancing the role of collective organs—party committee plenums, bureaus, party meetings—including their role in exercising control over the activities of leading cadres.

Speaking of the present reports, I would like to emphasize that they are of special significance because they are being conducted at a very important time for the party and the country. The first stage of restructuring—the formulation of its ideological, theoretical, and organizational platform and the choice of directions and methods of work—has mainly been completed. The new, second stage has arrived, and its tasks, briefly, amount to combining the policy of restructuring elaborated by the party with life and transforming it into actual practice. At this stage the significance of the party's multifaceted political, ideological, and organizational activity is increasing to a tremendous degree, and the responsibility of all its components for implementing the policy of the revolutionary renewal of all spheres and aspects of our society is being enhanced. And it is very important that the work content and the operating methods of party organizations, their leading organs, and the party as a whole should fully accord with the nature, scale, and novelty of the tasks facing them.

It is important to deepen and move on the positive processes which have developed since April 1985, to enhance the activeness of all party members and party cadres, to give new boosts to the creative energy of the masses, and to bring many people out of their state of inertia and indifference. As M.S. Gorbachev pointed out at the recent CPSU Central Committee conference, this is precisely the essence of the next major step that we are now to take. Plenums and meetings with discussions of elective organs' reports are meant to serve to further galvanize the activity of party organizations in implementing the 27th party congress decisions.

The political significance of reports, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo resolution on this question emphasizes, is determined by the need to step up work in all components and at all levels of the party and to overcome the laggardness of a number of party committees in terms of the dynamic development of vital processes. For restructuring cannot be accomplished without the sharp activation of the life of all party organizations.

I would like to draw attention to something else. In this way party organs—party committee bureaus and party committees and bureaus of primary party organizations—are reporting back for the first time on a party-wide scale. It is a question of reports not on work in general but precisely on work in guiding restructuring. In other words, by the very way the question is formulated elective organs, their secretaries, and other members of party committees and bureaus pledge to make an exacting assessment of their own activity and to report on how they are restructuring their work and striving to accelerate restructuring in the sectors assigned to them so that affairs in every link conform to the new demands and accord with the principles on which the restructuring of society is founded. For every elective organ and for every Communist who is a member of it this is essentially a test of conformity with the times and with the demands of restructuring—a test that must be passed honestly and openly.

[Kozhemyako] At what stage is the report campaign now? What has been interesting and instructive in the preparation and holding of the plenums and meetings that have already taken place?

[Razumovskiy] Roughly half the party obkom and kraykom plenums, more than one-third of the plenums in the city and rayon link, and more than 70% of meetings in primary and shop party organizations have now been held. That is, it is already possible to draw definite conclusions and single out the most characteristic trends.

There is every reason to say that in the majority of places this campaign is being run, as the CPSU Central Committee recommended, in a spirit of Bolshevik frankness, glasnost, constructive criticism and self-criticism, and in-depth analysis of the activities of leading party organs and, in general, is working well according to the design intended when the decision to conduct reports was adopted.

This is being assisted by the fact that the preparations for the reports in the majority of organizations are already being made on a broad democratic basis with the direct participation of many party committee members and Communists. Special groups are set up, as a rule, from among them to study various aspects of party work, the activity of members of elective organs, and broad public opinion and to analyze the letters received. Many party committees circulate the theses of reports locally in advance, publish them in the press, and directly ask Communists and working people to make comments and suggestions. Meetings are held with workers, kolkhoz members, various categories of the aktiv, party and labor veterans, and specialists. Members of elective party organs deliver reports on their work in party organizations and labor collectives.

All this elicits a broad public response, creates an appropriate mood in party organizations, and focuses working people's attention on the preparation of plenums and meetings.

The plenums and meetings themselves are distinguished, as a rule, by high activeness, their participants' great interest in the questions being discussed, and principledness in assessing the activities of elective organs and their secretaries. The Moscow party obkom plenum, for example, was addressed by 21 people. Every one of them exactingly assessed the bureau members' work and said what must be done to ensure that restructuring proceeds over a wide front and increasingly deeply penetrates all aspects of life. There was an open, unfettered discussion imbued with concern for enhancing the oblast party organization's militant capacity.

It is important that the attention of plenum and meeting participants is focused on shortcomings and weak points in the activity of elective organs. Serious criticism is leveled at those who have not yet abandoned old work methods and who tolerate manifestations of complacency, red tape, freeloading, and egalitarianism. There are many fruitful attempts to tie the work of every bureau and party committee member to the way in which restructuring is proceeding in the sector assigned to him and to whether there are real changes for the better, tangible results in the economic, social, and spiritual spheres, and palpable steps in developing democracy, strengthening order and discipline, improving working people's working and living conditions, and enhancing their well-being. And criticism assumes a specific, personal nature. I could cite as an example the Rostov party obkom plenum, whose participants made many specific, impartial comments about secretaries and other members of the obkom bureau. Obkom Secretary A.Ye. Tyaglivyy, in particular, was criticized for the fact that, in tackling questions of construction, he neglects the long term, overreaches himself, and, on making local visits, "rebukes, lectures, and promises," while things are in fact slow to improve. To the bureau's credit, it itself summoned obkom members to such a frank discussion.

Questions of improving the style of party work are at the center of the discussion. It was pointed out at Yaroslavl CPSU Obkom plenum, for example, that the obkom bureau adopts many decisions but does far from everything to implement them and to organize execution in a businesslike way. This is, unfortunately, a rather widespread shortcoming—an inveterate belief in the power of papers, conferences, and sessions. This was also mentioned at plenums of the Kiev, Kostroma, and Kzyl-Orda party obkoms and many other party committees.

Questions of the need for the speediest mastering of political methods of leadership are being raised sharply—although, unfortunately, not everywhere. It is pointed out that technocratic and ordering-pressuring approaches are still being eradicated with difficulty from the practice of party work. Characteristic in this regard is the question put by Kh.M. Nigmatullin, tractor driver on the "Luch" Kolkhoz, at the Bashkir party obkom plenum: "What will the obkom and its bureau and apparatus regard as being of paramount importance when tackling questions of agriculture...? Will they at last show concern for the person who lives and works in the countryside, delve into his cares, needs, and pains, and help him?" This is the predominant thought in many speeches: We will both enhance the economy and resolve social problems more successfully, the better we tackle people's education, the person's inner world, and the assertion of high morality.

[Kozhemyako] How do Communists and party committee members use the right to replace members of elective organs, to remove from them those who fail to cope with the assigned duties or compromise themselves, and to reelect bureaus and party committees which work unsatisfactorily?

[Razumovskiy] Quite widely and actively. The task set by the CPSU Central Committee of lending new strength to those Communists and party committees who march in the vanguard of restructuring and of naming to their face those who slow it down has been perceived with profound understanding in the party and is having a tremendous impact on the entire course of the campaign. Communists have no wish to tolerate inertia, irresponsibility, or phrasemongering.

I will cite the following data. Plenums and meetings have deemed unsatisfactory the work of a number of party raykom bureaus and of 2,600 party committees and primary party organization bureaus. Approximately 200 personnel have been removed from gorkom and raykom bureaus for failing to cope with their duties or compromising themselves, and more than 57,000 bureau and party committee members have been replaced in primary party organizations, including more than 13,000 secretaries voted out [pereizbrano]. The Communists of a "Zaporozhstal" Association combine and of an experimental plant of the "Sistema" Science-and-Production Association (Daugavpils City), for example, elected their party organs anew. The Kalininskiy party raykom plenum in Turkmenistan's Tashauz Oblast deemed the work of the raykom bureau unsatisfactory and removed the party raykom first and second secretaries from the bureau and dismissed them from their posts for bureaucratic administration in their work, figure padding, and nepotism in selecting cadres. These and other examples also attest to the shortcomings that exist in implementing the party's cadre policy.

[Kozhemyako] The reports have in many ways highlighted the work of members of elective party organs. What could you say about their role in galvanizing the activities of party organizations?

[Razumovskiy] It would probably be no exaggeration to say that the involvement of members of elective organs in active work is a powerful and real reserve for galvanizing the party's entire activity. Indeed. There are now 19.4 million Communists in the CPSU's ranks. Of these, 5.3 million of the most authoritative and experienced comrades have been elected party group organizers,

secretaries and bureau members of primary and shop party organizations, and members of party committees at all levels—from primary party organizations to the CPSU Central Committee—and onto the corresponding auditing commissions. They include foremost workers and kolkhoz members (these make up 40.6% of the elected aktiv), engineering and technical personnel, agricultural specialists, scientists, workers in education, culture, and health care, party, soviet, and economic leaders, and representatives of working people's mass organizations. This broad representation and the diversity of experience of members of elective party organs help to strengthen ties with the masses and create broad opportunities for the comprehensive, in-depth examination of fundamental questions of the life of party organizations, the adoption of appropriate decisions, and the organization of their fulfillment.

Unfortunately, the role of members of elective organs has been belittled to a considerable degree. As Academician V.S. Semenikhin figuratively said on addressing the Moscow CPSU Gorkom plenum, they are frequently allocated the role of "wedding generals" [people who just go through the motions]. It is quite abnormal when party committee members—be they scientists or specialists, workers or kolkhoz members—are not involved in examining questions in which they are competent, are not invited to sessions to discuss them, and are not familiarized with the materials submitted. The statement by G.V. Yermyshko, driver for the "Kamchatskiy" timber procurement establishment, at the Kamchatka party obkom plenum is characteristic: "I am not satisfied with my activity as an obkom member. I only participate in plenary sessions. I do not have a specific assignment. And I am not the only one like this. I would like the entire membership of the elective organ to operate actively."

The reports have also shown how the activities of elective organs are adversely affected by the "official" approach, so to speak, in forming their composition, when it is not a worker's personal qualities, level of political maturity, or social activeness but the post that he holds that is at the forefront. And yet it is individuals, not "representatives," that are needed in a leading party organ.

So it turns out that basic matters are run by a narrow circle of people, while the elective organ's members find themselves to one side, as it were. In this way the fundamental principle of party leadership—collegiality—is distorted and the substance of party work is impoverished. Not the committee under the bureau but the bureau entirely accountable to the committee—this and this alone is how relations must be organized in party organs. I would particularly like to emphasize that the party committee is not a sitting organ but an acting organ. Daily consultation with the party committee's members by the bureau and secretaries, regular meetings with them, the fulfillment of specific assignments on the committee's behalf by members of the elective organ, and their direct participation in generalizing the practice of party work and preparing proposals must be the norm in the party committee's work.

[Kozhemyako] The participants in the plenums and meetings are naturally focusing their attention on the main avenues of the party's activity at the present stage of the restructuring—the democratization of public life and the implementation of radical economic reform. What merits particular attention here?

[Razumovskiy] I would like first of all to note with satisfaction that the majority of party organizations are aware of their responsibility for solving these problems, and are at the same time aware of their full complexity. At plenums and meetings in the Leningrad, Belgorod, Voronezh, Irkutsk, Tula, and Kharkov Oblast party organizations and others, it was stressed that the processes of democratization which have been launched and the introduction of new methods of economic management require different approaches to the organization of party work.

These do not come easily. The transfer of enterprises onto full economic accountability [khozraschet] and self-financing is a very difficult matter. It is important to teach people to work successfully in these conditions and to ensure that everyone knows well what is required of him and of the collective where he works and can resolve the tasks facing him with skill. Nonetheless, these questions are not by any means approached responsibly everywhere. People get indignant when they are not consulted and their legitimate requests are shrugged aside. That was the case, for instance, at the Yaroslavl motor plant, where a simple matter of the work schedule for certain shops was for some reason resolved by the leaders without the collective's participation. At the Aktyubinskselmash plant 40% of workers polled before the party meeting noted that nothing is being done in the shops to prepare for work in the new conditions. "We do not yet know how the process of transferring our enterprise to full economic accountability and self-financing will go," A.A. Bogdan, engineer at the Makhachlaka Locomotive Depot, said at the Dagestan party obkom plenum.

All this is alarming, especially in view of the fact that, as you know, from the beginning of next year enterprises producing 60% of our output are to work in the new way. There can be no justification for complacency and unconcern in these matters. There are plenty of indications that in a number of places they have a poor knowledge of the provisions of the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association), the councils of labor collectives are launching their activity only slowly, and many simply do not know where to begin and are waiting for explanations of some kind. Party organizations must without delay carefully analyze the situation in each specific sector and take the necessary steps.

The reports also show that although the line of democratization is supported everywhere, there are still a good many workers who do not know how to engage in dialogue with people and convince them, and who still use the methods of administrative decrees and bans. On this question, in one of the speeches at the Kiev party gorkom plenum it was rightly said that if a party worker does not have an inner need to communicate with people and visit the primary party organizations, he should be transferred to other work.

Some people, on encountering instances of demagoguery or attempts to exploit the atmosphere of glasnost for purposes alien to our society, lose their grip and begin to doubt the need for further democratization of public life. Party organizations must take this into account in their work with people and cultivate in them a high level of political awareness, a correct understanding of the nature of socialist democracy, and the ability to resist any antisocial phenomena. It is necessary actively to expose those who adopt an unworthy position and take advantage of difficulties in the attempt to discredit the restructuring.

It is rightly emphasized at many plenums and meetings that special responsibility for the establishment of democratic principles, a high level of organization, and discipline in our life rests with the Communists. One must agree with the remarks by I.V. Ilnitskaya, senior inspector at the State Bearings Plant (Saratov): "Our authority will not be increased purely because we criticize everyone in succession. People must see that Communists demand more of themselves than of others."

[Kozhemyako] Letters to PRAVDA also indicate that not all the party organizations make skillful use of the reports to develop the Communists' activeness and strengthen the atmosphere of responsibility, principle, and party comradeship. In this connection, what, in your view, should we pay attention to in holding the plenums and meetings, where they have not yet taken place?

[Razumovskiy] Indeed, the plenums and meetings are not being held to the proper standard everywhere. This applies mainly to rayon level, and especially to many primary party organizations. What causes concern here? First and foremost the fact that certain party workers cannot rid themselves of the established stereotypes and cliches and keep overorganizing everything and forcing things into a tight framework, which imposes bureaucratic constraints on any matter, however well thought out. In Orenburg Oblast, for instance, the entire report campaign in the primary party organizations was "rushed through" in barely a month. Who needed that? And it is no accident that many of the reports brought no tangible benefit.

And what does the following fact show, for instance? A plenum was held, with a bureau report, at Sanchurskiy CPSU Raykom in Kirov Oblast. A decision was adopted. Everything was apparently as it should be. But it turned out that the discussion was superficial, neither the keynote speaker nor the other speakers revealed the major shortcomings and failures in the work of the raykom bureau and the rayon party organization as a whole, or gave assessments of them. As a result the plenum had to be convened again. Only then did a frank and principled discussion take place. The party raykom first secretary was relieved of his post and the raykom second secretary, the rayispolkom chairman, and the chairman of the rayon agro-industrial association were severely punished.

The level of criticism at many plenums and meetings is also worrying. In some places, as before, it is, so to speak, of a "merciful" nature. This is how the work of the bureau members was assessed in the theses for the report of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee, published before the plenum: One Central Committee secretary "is a generator of many ideas and proposals," another "has a good knowledge of the problems of the agro-industrial complex which he runs," a third bureau member "has varied experience and a good knowledge of the problems of the republic's national economy." The criticism of them (if you can call it criticism at all) went like this: "His participation could be more active...," "he could be advised to show more persistence," and so forth. It appears that the tendency toward self-glorification and deference to rank and the fear of "offending" people through criticism are tenacious. And what can we say about those who "organize" criticism of themselves, criticism which is, of course, superficial and offers no real food for thought? There were also instances where, at certain party committee plenums, the bureau did not give an account of itself, but practically read a lecture to other people, including members of the committee.

Here is something else to think about. Certain party organs distribute prior to the plenums not only the theses for the reports (which can only be welcomed), but also draft resolutions which assess beforehand, before the plenum discussion, the work of the bureau and the comrades belonging to it. Does there not lie behind this a desire to impose on the party committee members one's own assessments of one's own work?

Another shortcoming that is hard to overcome is the absence in many reports and speeches of a proper analysis of the state of party organizational and ideological work. Here is a typical example. In the Ashkhabad Oblast party organization the restructuring has probably had the least effect of all on the sphere of ideological activity. Here serious shortcomings are occurring in the international and patriotic education of the population, atheist work is extremely unsatisfactorily organized, and survivals of the feudal and bey system are proving tenacious. Nonetheless basically nothing at all was said about this in the party obkom bureau report to the plenum. Nor did the speakers touch on these topics. The obkom bureau as a whole is responsible for these shortcomings, but there are also people who are personally entrusted with this sector. Unfortunately the plenum did not call them to account.

It is also worrying that at the plenums of many party committees due attention was not paid to questions of improving the leadership of primary party organizations and giving them assistance. Yet this is the front line of the struggle for the restructuring, this is the center of gravity of all the work of party raykoms and gorkoms and their apparatus. Revolutionary transformations cannot be carried out from an office—you have to be among the people and organize the job on the spot.

This must also be mentioned because the atmosphere in many primary party organizations is causing concern. They have not yet established an atmosphere of high principles and implacability toward shortcomings. There are many such party organizations in scientific institutions, creative unions, and enterprises and organizations in the service sphere, and, which is particularly distressing, in certain ministries and other central departments. The USSR Ministry of the Gas Industry party organization recently held a meeting with a party committee report. The report delivered by party committee secretary V.G. Yakovenko was marked by vagueness, glib formulas, and a patent desire to avoid tricky points and not offend anyone with a word of criticism. Many of the speeches were similar. One cannot help wondering: When will the Communists at that ministry and a number of others really open the windows to let in the refreshing wind of the times? When will they stop submitting to the magical effects of the "table of ranks"?

It is impermissible for a party organization, in assessing the state of affairs in the collectives, to lag behind people's mood in the urgency of its reaction to shortcomings and not come up to the mark. Those party committees which react in a principled way to such cases are acting correctly. For instance, the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's party gorkoms and raykoms, after analyzing the meetings held, came to the conclusion that at more than 340 party organizations the meetings did not achieve the goal set, and proposed that they be held again. The Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee, Khabarovsk Kraykom, Kalinin and Kiev Obkoms, and certain other party committees, having uncovered instances of haste and formalism in the holding of meetings and in some places a misunderstanding of the essence and nature of reports, stopped the meetings. All the same, these are extreme measures. The most important thing is to ensure that preparations for plenums and meetings take place in accordance with the Central Committee's requirements and that in no event do they become orchestrated sessions. Here it is worth mentioning the representatives of higher organs. Their task is not simply to attend the plenum or meeting and record shortcomings, but to give timely assistance and prevent a formal approach to the task.

[Kozhemyako] The CPSU Central Committee has drawn particular attention to ensuring that in the course of preparations for the plenums and meetings there is full glasnost, wide consultation with the public, and consideration of the working people's opinion of the activity of party committees. How are these demands being met? What significance does glasnost have in general in party work? What is the role of the mass media here?

[Razumovskiy] I will be brief: Without glasnost, party work is simply inconceivable in present-day conditions. And it is a good thing that the majority of party organizations have realized this. I have already mentioned the direct effect on the whole course of the report campaign of the party committees' appeals to Communists and the public.

But it would be premature to say that glasnost and openness have become the norm everywhere. There are many instances showing that many party workers find it far from simple to move into the world of glasnost. Nor can we close our eyes to the fact that manifestations of bureaucracy are still making themselves felt in party work.

Observations show, and the press not infrequently rightly reports, that workers can be encountered in party committees who give loud verbal support to the slogans of the time, but in practice resist in every way the healthy changes, including the expansion of glasnost. There are also those whose inner conviction is that it is not appropriate for the masses to know everything and that by virtue of their position, they alone are the sole focus of real wisdom and knowledge. They are not very interested in objective reality. They would rather, as the saying goes, break the thermometer than know what the temperature really is.

Glasnost, openness—this is a decisive turn toward an understanding by everyone of Lenin's truth: The party is accountable to the people. Since this truth has become well and truly faced in many people's consciousness, and in their practical actions too, it is necessary to work actively to restore it.

In the development of glasnost, as in the struggle for restructuring as a whole, a major role is played by the mass media. They publicize widely the preparations of elected organs for reports and the work of plenums and party meetings. At the same time there are weak points in the coverage of these problems. In a number of cases one is struck by the cliched approach and superficial knowledge of the subject. The arsenal of forms of presentation of material is poor. And many newspaper articles cover the plenums one-sidedly and sometimes even wrongly, which causes perplexity to the readers. Unfortunately, errors and inaccuracies are also met with. This is impermissible in our press.

The shortcomings noted are characteristic of the local press too. Party committees should step up their attentiveness to its work. The ability to direct and help a press organ and maintain daily working relations with it is, if

you like, an important indicator of the level of political awareness in the work of a party committee and its leaders. It should be admitted that not all party workers yet possess that awareness.

[Kozhemyako] The report is heard. The decision is adopted. What next?

[Razumovskiy] As a result of the reports every party committee has a clearer, more accurate, more expressive idea both of the overall picture of the state of affairs in the party organization, and of the problems facing it. It is necessary more vigorously to set about tackling them, mobilizing the necessary forces. Without a doubt, as a result of the present campaign the party organizations have risen a step higher in terms of principles and activeness on the part of Communists and urgency in reacting to shortcomings. And it is necessary to move on from that step. The searching, critical, and self-critical discussion which took place at the plenums and meetings should be no mere episode, but the norm of daily life and work for the party organizations. An atmosphere of frankness, openness, humanity—of true party comradeship should define all their activity.

Major work lies ahead for all cadres on self-education and self-teaching, so as to turn into convictions and actions the criticism, comments, and proposals voiced in the elected organs' reports. It is also necessary to organize the training of newly elected comrades and help them more rapidly to master the methods of political work among the masses. It would clearly be correct, after a certain time, to hear reports at plenums or meetings from Communists who were the subject of particularly keen criticism.

[Kozhemyako] The present reports of elected organs are an important stage in preparations for the 19th all-union party conference. What problems are arousing the greatest interest among Communists in this connection? What proposals are being put forward in the course of the plenums and meetings?

[Razumovskiy] For the party and country, the forthcoming all-union party conference is a major political event. It will, as you know, examine in broad terms the course of implementation of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions, the main results of the first half of the 12th 5-Year Plan, and the party organizations' tasks to deepen the process of restructuring, as well as measures to further democratize the life of the party and the whole of society.

Party committees seek to use the conference preparations to increase the effectiveness of the party organizations' work, and are carrying out these preparations under the banner of the further rallying of party ranks, strengthening of the unity of party and people, and stepping up of the restructuring processes.

Interesting ideas and proposals are being put forward at the plenums and meetings, aimed at further increasing the party's role in society's life, deepening the processes of democratization and glasnost, and stepping up political, organizational, and ideological work. There is talk of how to bring the style, forms, and methods of the activity of party organizations and their leading organs more rapidly into line with the demands of the new stage of the restructuring and how to exclude duplication in the work of party committees and soviet organs, trade unions, and other public organizations. Opinions are voiced on the need to make amendments to this end in the function of the party committees and to provide for additional statutory guarantees in order to preclude the presence in leadership posts of persons who fail to cope with the duties entrusted to them and prevent abuses of power. I think attention should be given to the proposal to legalize the practice of periodical reports by party committees and party bureaus, say, at least once in the period between conferences.

All the proposals are being carefully studied and summed up and many will undoubtedly be the subject of discussion at the all-union party conference.

To sum up, I would like to emphasize that the chief idea in the course of the discussion of the reports is this: The elected party organs and Communists charged with the high honor of being elected to these organs are called upon to set an example of selflessness, activeness, and, if you like, tenacity in pursuing the course of restructuring. This is a very important condition of the stepping up of the entire party's activity. Herein lies the guarantee of success.

Shcherbitskiy Attends Council Session

AU281154 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 16 Dec 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Let Us Be More Active in Developing and Applying Power-Saving Technologies"]

[Excerpts] On 15 December 1987 the Council for Promoting Scientific and Technological Progress, under the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, held a session to examine the state of and prospects for the application of power-saving technologies at the enterprises of the chemical industry and of the Ukrainian Ministry of Housing and Municipal Services.

Reports on the item under examination were delivered by V. I. Nikitenko, Ukrainian Gosplan deputy chairman, and V. D. Ploshchenko, Ukrainian minister of housing and municipal services. [passage omitted]

The council examined a plan of activity for 1988. A working group has been commissioned to scrutinize the proposals made by the council's members to improve its work and to develop new forms and methods of activity that are specifically characteristic of the soviet. [passage omitted]

The session was addressed by V. V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary.

Shcherbitskiy Addresses Ukraine Jubilee Meeting

LD251645 Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Kiev December 25 TASS—The working people of the Ukraine are celebrating a red-letter date: The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was proclaimed 70 years ago—on December 25, 1917. A celebration meeting of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Central Committee and the Supreme Soviet of the Republic devoted to the jubilee was held in Kiev today.

"The Soviet Ukraine has lived for 70 years now under the banner of the Great October Revolution in a close-knit family of the fraternal republics," Vladimir Shcherbitskiy, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Central Committee said. "A long road of heroic deeds, strenuous labour effort and great accomplishments has been traversed. There were also difficulties and setbacks on this road, but the main thing is that over the seven decades our people have preserved revolutionary optimism, loyalty to the Leninist ideals and created a reliable base for onward march. Herein lies the ernest of success of perestroyka, an ernest of the fulfilment of the qualitatively new tasks facing the republic.

The Ukraine is today one of the main metallurgical, machine building and fuel and energy producing centres of the Soviet Union, a republic of a powerful chemical industry and agro-industrial complex, the reporter said.

The Ukraine accounts for nearly a half of all output of cast iron of the USSR, 40 per cent of steel and rolled metal output, 33 per cent of coal output almost 60 per cent of iron ore output, twenty per cent of grain and more than 50 per cent of sugar production. The national income and volume of output in the republic make today a sixth of the Soviet Union's national income and output volume.

The logic of perestroyka, Vladimir Shcherbitskiy said, necessitates an even more active development of the democratic principles directly in production, enhancing the role of the work collectives and broadening glasnost, requires from everyone enthusiasm and selflessness in his work.

Earthquake in Eastern Siberia Reported

LD261437 Moscow TASS in English 1421 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Ulan Ude December 26 TASS—An earthquake shook Buryatia, Eastern Siberia, at 2:39 a.m. local time on Friday, December 25. The quake's epicentre was located under Lake Baykal.

Tremours in the villages Baykalo-Kudara, Oimur and Sukhaya on the lake shores measured four points.

Shocks of two to three points were registered in Ulan Ude.

There were no casualties or destruction.

Earthquake in Kirghizia Reported 26 Dec

LD261515 Moscow TASS in English 1426 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Frunze December 26 TASS—An earthquake measuring six points shook the Central Asian republic of Kirgizia at 9:45 a.m. Moscow time today.

According to data of the Institute of Seismology of the Kirghizian Academy of Sciences, its epicentre was located ten kilometres south-west of the town of Tash-Kumyr.

Tremors in Tash-Kumyr reached five points, in Kara-Kul 4.5 points, and in Osh three points.

According to preliminary reports, the earthquake caused no destruction.

Delays at New Votinsk Machine Tool Facility

LD142104 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] A new facility for the production of up-to-date machine tools has started operation at the Votkinsk machine building plant in Udmurtia [the plant listed in the INF Treaty as subject to inspection by continuous monitoring]. Here is reportage by our correspondent, Feliks Simakov.

[Simakov] This is the unusual sound that I heard in a snow-white colored production department: The signal from a robot stacker, which lowers the blanks directly onto the machine tool. As the batch of blanks is delivered, the components that have already been machined are taken away. All the conveying operations are controlled by a microcomputer. In fact, according to all the preliminary plans, as I was told by the specialists, this production department shouldn't be here yet: It was planned to go into operation next year. But the builders made an effort, as well as the plant people themselves, of course. They are now assembling equipment and at the same time are manufacturing components for up-to-date machine tool complexes. The new technology will enable the Votkinsk plant to at least double the manufacture of machine tools with numerical program control. The leap forward will also be helped by a well-thought-out system of planning and labor organization—everything so as to be able in the future to assimilate full financial autonomy. Everything here looked good at first sight until, however, the engineers come to stand by the silent machines. That is the nickname here for the powerful

machine tools that have been put into the production chain, which is clearly broken at this point. Deputy chief mechanic Yuriy Vasilyevich Bakin explained:

[Begin Bakin recording] These machine tools were manufactured by the Alapayevsk machine tool building plant, and today these four machine tools are actually standing idle. The first one broke down recently, when the arm fell off. [end recording]

[Simakov] Nearby we saw some fitters who had been brought in: They were trying unsuccessfully to put life back into the machine tool. Someone else's bad workmanship—which now means that the equipment is standing idle—has hit the Votkinsk plant's plans badly—affecting not just their hopes, but also their consumers, who are desparately waiting for the machine tool centers that the Votkinsk plant has promised them and has recently put into serial production. And here is something else I found out when I spoke with chief designer Anatoliy Vasilyevich Zamyatin:

[Begin recording] [Simakov] Anatoliy Vasilyevich, I see that your machine tools are ready to be despatched, but is this how you intend to send them out? I don't see the electronic control system.

[Zamyatin] Yes, you've mentioned something that really is the worst problem for us today. We were supposed to have all 10 of the VM501 machine tools ready—manufactured, adjusted and despatched to the customer. For the planned number of 10 machine tools we have been supplied with only 2 2R32 devices. The supply to us of the 2R32 devices by the scientific production association Elektronmash, which comes under the USSR Ministry of Instrument Making, has been extremely irregular. Both last month and the month before that we had big trouble in fulfilling the state program. We worked weekends, and we worked overtime, and we managed to fulfill the plan. But this month we can't do it. Two systems for 10 machine tools: What can I say?! We've put the question to the USSR Ministry of Instrument Making, and we've put the question directly to both of the enterprises that supply us—Elektronmash in Leningrad and the Kvant production association, which also comes under the USSR Ministry of Instrument Making—but the supply of these systems is not improving. The sort of thing that's happening is that even at the stage of quality control when the components are delivered we have to work on one in every two systems to bring it up to standard, and that, of course, is utterly disgraceful. And the situation is the same, if not more difficult, for the customer. Complaints are made to us, and we, of course, resent and are pained at the fact that our machine tools don't work. [end recording]

[Simakov] So, let us list again the manufacturers of substandard output and undisciplined suppliers: The Alapayevsk machine tool building plant; the Elktronmash association in Leningrad; and the Kvant association in Nevinnomyssk. The scientists in Izhevsk and the specialists in Votkinsk developed a fine-quality machining center, but while the suppliers are providing substandard goods, or providing nothing at all, the machine tool system from the Udmurt plant will not earn the reknown that it deserves. Nor will the other Votkinsk machine tools or the consumer goods, whose output here is to be substantially increased.

Scientific

Academy of Sciences Electees Listed

PM241909 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "From the USSR Academy of Sciences"]

[Text] In accordance with the USSR Academy of Sciences 14 (15) September 1987 announcement on holding elections for membership in the USSR Academy of Sciences, full and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, councils of scientific institutions and VUZ's, and state and public organizations nominated 307 candidates for full membership and 1,787 candidates for corresponding membership in the USSR Academy of Sciences.

In accordance with the charter, a 23 December general meeting of the USSR Academy of Sciences elected the following scientists as full and corresponding members of the USSR Academy of Sciences:

Full members of the USSR Academy of Sciences:

Mathematics Department A.A. Gonchar; V.A. Marchenko; V.P. Platonov; Yu.G. Reshetnyak

General Physics and Astronomy Department A.A. Abrikosov; A.F. Andreyev; A.A. Boyarchuk; L.P. Gorkov; V.V. Osiko; K.K. Rebane: Yu.V. Sharvin

Nuclear Physics Department A.Ye. Chudakov

Physical Technical Problems of Power Engineering Department V.A. Glukhikh; V.Ye. Nakoryakov; N.N. Ponomarev-Stepnoy; Yu.N. Rudenko; V.I. Subbotin

Machine Building, Mechanics, and Control Processes Problems Department K.S. Kolesnikov; V.M. Matrosov; L.V. Ovsyannikov; Yu.S. Osipov; V.Ye. Panin; Yu.A. Ryzhov; I.D. Spasskiy

Information Science, Computer Technology, and Automation Department N.N. Yevtikhiyev; Ye.V. Zolotov; F.A. Kuznetsov; I.M. Makarov

General and Technical Chemistry Department A.N. Baraboshkin; M.Ye. Volpin; K.I. Zamarayev; N.S. Zefirov; V.A. Kabanov; A.D. Kuntsevich; O.M. Nefedov; A.S. Nikiforov; N.A. Plate; G.A. Tolstikov

Physical Chemistry and Technology of Inorganic Materials Department Yu.A. Zolotov; N.P. Lyakishev; B.A. Purin; Yu.D. Tretyakov; V.I. Trefilov; G.P. Shveykin; S.V. Yakovlev

Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Chemistry of Physiologically Active Compounds Department G.P. Georgiyev; G.B. Yelyakov; V.T. Ivanov; M.V. Ivanov; A.D. Mirzabekov; A.T. Mokronosov; I.A. Tarchevskiy

Physiology Department V.L. Sviderskiy; P.V. Simonov; V.I. Skok

General Biology Department V.N. Bolshakov; A.V. Zhirmunskiy; V.A. Strunnikov

Geology, Geophysics, Geochemistry, and Mining Sciences Department V.L. Barsukov; I.S. Gramberg; N.L. Dobretsov; B.A. Zharikov; V.I. Keylis-Borok; N.P. Laverov; V.S. Surkov; B.Ye. Khain

Oceanology, Atmospheric Physics, and Geography Department G.S. Golitsyn

History Department V.P. Alekseyev; A.P. Derevyanko; I.D. Kovalchenko; A.I. Krushanov; Yu.S. Kukushkin; G.N. Sevostyanov

Philosophy and Law Department V.V. Laptev; G.L. Smirnov; I.T. Frolov

Economics Department L.I. Abalkin; S.A. Sitaryan; S.S. Shatalin

Literature and Language Department Yu.B. Vipper; N.I. Tolstoy; Ye.P. Chelyshev; D.N. Shmelev

Corresponding members of the USSR Academy of Sciences:

Mathematics Department V.V. Voyevodin; N.V. Kuznetsov; S.P. Merkuryev; V.G. Romanov

General Physics and Astronomy Department V.K. Abalakin; Ye.N. Avrorin; S.I. Anisimov; V.V. Afrosimov; S.P. Bugayev; A.A. Galeyev; A.M. Dykhne; V.V. Zheleznyakov; B.Ya. Zeldovich; A.A. Kaplyanskiy; E.P. Kruglyakov; G.F. Krymskiy; Ya.Ye. Pokrovskiy; V.I. Talanov; M.S. Khaykin; I.M. Tsidilkovskiy; A.A. Chernov; V.B. Shteyn-Shleyger; I.F. Shchegolev

Nuclear Physics Department Yu.G. Abov; D.A. Kirzhnits; B.A. Nikolskiy; A.A. Slavnov

Physical Technical Problems of Power Engineering Department V.M. Batenin; Yu.S. Vasilyev; Yu.N. Vershinin; Ya.B. Danilevich; B.M. Kovalchuk; L.N. Lavrov; A.I. Leontyev; Yu.P. Semenov; V.P. Skripov; G.A. Filippov; V.Ye. Fortov

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Information Science, Computer Technology, and Automation Department M.L. Aleksandrov; B.V. Batalov; V.A. Gelovani; V.A. Ilin; V.L. Korobeynikov; V.K. Levin; A.P. Reutov; V.I. Ryzhiy; K.K. Svitashev; Yu.M. Solomentsev

General and Technical Chemistry Department G.A. Abakumov; N.F. Bakeyev; A.L. Buchachenko; K.M. Dyumayev; T.A. Mastryukova; V.A. Ponomarenko; R.Z. Sagdeyev; V.A. Tartakovskiy; O.N. Chupakhin

Physical Chemistry and Technology of Inorganic Materials Department O.A. Bannykh; G.P. Vyatkin; V.Yu. Glushchenko; Ye.M. Dianov; A.V. Yelyutin; V.T. Kalinnikov; L.N. Kozlov; N.T. Kuznetsov; A.M. Kutepov; A.I. Kholkin

Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Chemistry of Physiologically Active Compounds Department G.I. Abelev; I.G. Atabekov; M.A. Grachev; E.Ya. Gren; V.G. Debabov; L.V. Kalakutskiy; I.S. Kulayev; L.P. Ovchinnikov; P.P. Rumyantsev; Yu.A. Chizmadzhev

Physiology Department V.S. Gurfinkel; G.A. Ilizarov; O.A. Kryshtal; V.I. Medvedev; Yu.V. Natochin; M.P. Roshchevskiy; S.N. Fedorov

General Biology Department I.S. Darevskiy; S.G. Inge-Vechtomov; I.Yu. Koropachinskiy; P.A. Ler; D.S. Pavlov; V.N. Tikhomirov; Yu.I. Chernov; S.V. Shestakov

Geology, Geophysics, Geochemistry, and Mining Sciences Department O.A. Bogatikov; Ch.B. Borukayev; A.N. Dmitriyevskiy; A.I. Zhamoyda; A.L. Knipper; V.A. Koroteyev; S.V. Krylov; M.V. Kurlenya; F.A. Letnikov; A.S. Marfunin; V.G. Moiseyenko; V.I. Osipov; N.M. Proskuryakov; V.N. Strakhov; K.N. Trubetskoy; N.P. Yushkin

Oceanology, Atmospheric Physics, and Geography Department I.P. Druzhinin; M.V. Kabanov; V.P. Melnikov; K.N. Fedorov; G.I. Khudyakov

History Department N.N. Bolkhovitinov; V.N. Grashchenkov; M.S. Kapitsa; V.I. Kasyanenko; V.A. Kumanev; G.G. Litavrin; V.I. Molodin; N.N. Pokrovskiy; A.A. Fursenko; V.A. Shishkin; Ya.N. Shchapov

Philosophy and Law Department S.S. Alekseyev; N.B. Bikkenin; V.I. Boyko; N.I. Lapin; G.V. Osipov; V.S. Stepin; B.N. Topornin; G.Kh. Shakhnazarov; E. Yusupov; R.G. Yanovskiy

Economics Department O.N. Bykov; A.A. Kokoshin; V.V. Kuleshov; D.S. Lvov; V.A. Martynov; K.I. Mikulskiy; Yu.V. Yaremenko

Literature and Language Department S.S. Averintsev; A.A. Zaliznyak; F.F. Kuznetsov; B.L. Riftin; D.V. Sarabyanov

President of the USSR Academy of Sciences Academician G.I. Marchuk

Chief Scientific Secretarty of the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium Academician G.K. Skryabin

Marchuk Comments on Elections

LD231253 Moscow TASS in English 1226 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 23 TASS—By TASS correspondent Inna Zhukova:

Gavriil Ilizarov, a prominent Soviet physician—traumatologist from the Siberian city of Kurgan, has been elected corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Svyatoslav Fedorov, a prominent ophthalmologist, has also been elected corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

The elections to the Academy of Sciences of the USSR have ended in the Soviet capital today. As a result of two-day debates and discussions 255 new academicians and corresponding members have been elected. There are 900 members in the academy.

"Such an intensive inflow of new forces is a result of restructuring in the organization of science in the country," believes the president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR Guriy Marchuk. Commenting on the results of the elections, which were held in an atmosphere of openness and democracy, he explained that it was for the first time that new members had been elected not to fill the vacancies of quitting members. According to the new rules endorsed this year the renovation is done through the places of scientists reaching the age of 75.

This measure, Marchuk stressed, has been also undertaken to rejuvenate the academy. Among the newly elected members are many scientists at the age from 40 to 45.

The election procedure was an unusually stormy one. Suffice it to say that the vacancies were challenged by 2,000 scientists. Among the newly elected members of the academy 98 are employed at higher educational establishments and branch research instituions. This, as the president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR believes, "is evidence of the wish of the academy for deepening and strengthening the ties with practical activities."

Several scientists have been elected academicians bypassing the traditional stage of corresponding member, which happens very seldom. Among them is Vladimir Keilis-Borok, who developed a new effective method of earthquake prediction. Guriy Marchuk stressed that most of the scientists were elected in the priority areas—automatics, computer engineering, informatics, machine-building, physics, biotechnology and genetics.

According to the rules the elections are held once every three years.

Research Satellite 'Cosmos-1905' Launched 25 Dec

LD251251 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1245 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, 25 Dec (TASS)—Another artificial earth satellite, "Cosmos-1905," for continuing space research, was launched in the USSR today. It has been placed in orbit with the following parameters:

Initial period of revolution, 89.3 minutes;

Apogee, 298 km;

Perigee, 216 km;

Orbital inclination 70.4 degrees.

The apparatus is working normally.

Research Satellite 'Cosmos-1906' Launched 26 Dec

LD280730 Moscow TASS in English 0720 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—On December 26, 1987, artificial earth satellite "Cosmos-1906", next in the series, was launched in the Soviet Union. On board the satellite is installed scientific equipment designed to continue exploration of the earth's natural resources in the interests of various branches of USSR's national economy and international cooperation.

The satellite has been put into an orbit with the following parameters:

Initial period of revolution—88.8 minutes;

Maximum distance from the earth's surface (in the apogee)—274 kilometres;

Minimum distance from the earth's surface (in the perigee)—190 kilometres;

Inclination of the orbit—82.6 degrees.

Apart from the scientific equipment, the satellite carries a radio system for an accurate measurement of orbital elements, a radio telemetric system for transmitting back to earth data about the operation of instruments and scientific equipment.

The equipment installed on board the satellite is functioning normally.

The incoming information is transmitted to the state research and production centre "Priroda" (Nature) of the main Geodesy and Cartography Administration for processing and application.

'Ekran' Television Satellite Launched 27 Dec

LD280818 Moscow TASS in English 0805 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—In accordance with the programme for a further development of the telecasting system with the use of artificial earth satellites, the television satellite "Ekran" (screen) was launched in the Soviet Union on December 27, 1987. The TV satellite, next in the series, carries on board transmitting equipment ensuring in the decimeter wave band the retransmission of the central television programmes to the network of collective use receivers.

The satellite "Ekran" has been placed with a booster rocket Proton into an orbit close to a stationary circular one with the following initial parameters:

Distance from the earth's surface—35,628 kilometres;

The period of revolution around the earth is 23 hours 48 minutes;

Inclination of the orbit—1.5 degrees.

The equipment installed on board the satellite Ekran is functioning normally. The satellite is controlled by the command and instrumentation complex.

The television equipment of the satellite will be operated in accordance with the pre-set programme.

Further on 'Mir' Cosmonauts' Activities

Official Describes Mission

LD241649 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Five spacemen are working aboard the Soviet orbital complex "Mir." On Wednesday Yuriy Romanenko, who has spent a record time of over 320 days in orbit, and his crewmate Aleksandr Aleksandrov were joined by pilot Vladimir Titov, Flight Engineer Musa Manarov, and researcher Anatoliy Levchenko. We asked the deputy chief of Mission Control, Cosmonaut Aleksey Leonov, to describe the program of the new orbital experiment.

For the first time ever, joint work is to be carried out by the crew completing a space mission and the one that just arrived for a continuous flight aboard the "Mir" station, said Aleksey Leonov. The previous crews before returning to earth spent much time mothballing the station's units and instrumentation. Some time later, another crew was launched into orbit, arrived at the station, and engaged in the same operation starting from the end. Today the situation is different. The "Mir" station is a space laboratory of a new type. It is equipped with six docking ports and is large enough to allow for simultaneous work of as many as eight spacemen aboard it.

We would like to clarify some of Aleksey Leonov's points for our listeners. What we see now in orbit is a space train of a kind, made up of the orbital complex "Mir," the astrophysical module Kvant, and two manned spacecraft "Soyuz-TM." The whole structure is 35 m long, has a mass of some 50 tonnes, and the cubic capacity of its pressurized compartments is 150 cubic meters. Over the 5 days of their joint flight, the two crews are to carry out work dealing with materials processing. Specifically they will engage in the experimental production of extra pure semiconducting crystals, metal alloys, and medicines. All in all, the "Mir" complex and Kvant module are carrying over 2,000 research instruments and devices. With their help the spacemen can conduct large-scale studies of the earth from outer space and look into remote recesses of the universe from near-earth orbit.

The joint crew is also to stage various medical and biological experiments. Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov are expected to host in orbit two visiting international crews, a Soviet-Bulgarian and a Soviet-French one. After completing the program of the joint flight Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov, and Anatoliy Levchenko will return to earth next Tuesday. Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov will stay aboard "Mir" for (?a) continuous orbital flight.

Joint Research Continues

LD241151 Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 24 TASS—By a TASS correspondent at the Ground Control Center:

Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov, Vladimir Titov, Musa Manarov and Anatoliy Levchenko are in the second day of joint work aboard the orbiting platform "Mir".

Their research program for today covers biotechnological, technical and biological experiments.

During the first days in "Mir" the cosmonauts have been and will continue doing a large number of medical studies focusing on man's ability to adapt to zero gravity.

The biotechnological experiments started include the growing of protein crystals in an installation called Aynur and the electrophoretic separation and cleaning of various biologically active substances in a unit called Ruchei (or streamlet in Russian).

Romanenko, Aleksandrov and Levchenko are to return to earth aboard the "Soyuz TM-3" spaceship. Before that they are to remove Levchenko' custom-made seat, which has been specially made to fit his body, in "Soyuz TM-4" and install it in the descent capsule of "Soyuz TM-3".

According to telemetry data and the cosmonauts' reports, the flight of the research platform "Mir" is proceeding normally.

The five Soviet cosmonauts are in fine spirits and feeling well.

Levchenko Studies Zero Gravity

LD241542 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Two Soviet cosmonauts have started a year-long flight in orbit. [passage omitted] One of the leaders of the super-long mission, Vladimir Blagov, described it as a small step to a manned flight to Mars. Weightlessness is a state alien to the human organism, Vladimir Blagov said, and it is quite likely that some day a doctor will appear on the "Mir" complex to examine the health of cosmonauts directly.

Anatoliy Levchenko has his own tasks to fulfill during the flight. As a future specialist on testing Soviet reuseable spacecraft, he will study the effects of zero gravity. On New Year's Eve Anatoliy Levchenko will return to earth, together with Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Aleksandrov.

Research Activities Described

LD251120 Moscow TASS in English 1110 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 25 TASS—A TASS correspondent reported from the Mission Control Centre:

Vladimir Titov, Musa Manarov and Anatoliy Levchenko have been working on board the orbital complex "Mir" for the third day together with Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Aleksandrov.

Today's programme includes medico-biological and biotechnological experiments and visual observation of the earth's surface.

The newly-arrived crew are performing yet another series of medical research the purpose of which is to evaluate the human organism's condition in the stage of adaptation to zero gravity as well as to determine the effectiveness of means being used during the period.

Experiments are being continued to practice a basic technology for obtaining highly pure biologically active substances in microgravitation conditions. One of antiviral preparations is being purified on the electrophoretic installation "Ruchei".

In accordance with the plan for the transfer of experience in long-duration work in orbit, Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Aleksandrov are acquainting Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov with the peculiarities of the operation of individual onboard systems and equipment of the research complex "Mir".

The flight is proceeding normally.

The cosmonauts are feeling well.

Further on Activities

LD261051 Moscow TASS in English 0940 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 26 TASS—TASS correspondent reports from the Flight Control Center:

The host crew of the Soviet orbital research complex "Mir" continues familiarizing the newly arrived cosmonauts with work aboard the complex and transferring to them the functions now to be performed by them.

Today, the long-duration space voyagers Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Aleksandrov share with the new crew the experience of work amassed by them in servicing the scientific instruments of the astrophysical module "Kvant" and conducting operations linked with venturing outside the complex.

Under the programme of biotechnical experiments with the plant "Ruchei", the cosmonauts subject gene-engineering interferon to electrophoretic purification.

Aquarium fish, tissue culture of the vegetable and animal origin and decorative plants were brought to the complex by the "Soyuz-TM-4" space craft further to study the influence of space flight factors on various biological objects.

The schedule for today also provides for performing technical experiments, filming and photographing of joint activity and a live telecast.

Judging by the results of radio talks and medical check-up data, the process of the adaptation of Vladimir Titov, Musa Manarov and Anatoliy Levchenko to zero gravity proceeds normally. All the five cosmonauts feel well.

Progress on Complex Updated

LD271137 Moscow TASS in English 1041 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 27 TASS—A TASS correspondent has reported from the Mission Control Centre:

The working day aboard the scientific research complex "Mir" began at 8 a.m. and will last till 11 p.m. Moscow time.

The programme of work today includes astrophysical and biological research, geophysical and biotechnological experiments, checking up systems aboard the freight vehicles.

Several more series of experiments are planned to be held within the framework of the international extra-atmospheric astronomy explorations "Roentgen" programme.

Biotechnological experiments are continuing at the "Aynur" unit to obtain vegetable protein crystals in weightlessness conditions.

Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Aleksandrov will have training sessions with the use of the pneumatic-vacuum suit "Chibis", in accordance with the time-schedule of preparations for the return to earth.

The new crew, cosmonauts Vladimir Titov, Musa Manarov and Anatoliy Levchenko continue familiarising themselves with peculiarities of exploitation of scientific equipment aboard the station.

According to reports from the orbit and the data of telemetric information, the flight of the orbital complex is proceeding as planned.

Three Cosmonauts To Leave

LD281107 Moscow TASS in English 1058 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS—TASS correspondent reports from the Mission Control Centre:

A program of joint work of five Soviet cosmonauts on board the "Mir" manned orbital complex is coming to a close. On December 29 Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov and Anatoliy Levchenko will return to the earth, while Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov will remain at the orbital complex. Final experiments in the sphere of space medicine and biology are conducted today. An experiment for growing crystals of vegetable protein in the Aynur installation is being concluded.

The cosmonauts began to prepare the "Soyuz TM-3" spaceship for a return voyage. They are putting there documents, photo and cinema film to be developed, magnetic tape, packed biological objects and are moving used equipment to the living compartment. Documents of the research conducted during a long flight and of the experiments staged by the two crews during the change of shifts on board the orbital complex will be brought to the earth.

According to telemetric data and cosmonauts' reports, the work at the orbital complex is going on according to a program.

Military

Yazov Addresses Moscow Garrison Propagandists

PM201911 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 87 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Meeting With Ideological Aktiv"]

[Text] Army General D.T. Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister, had a meeting with the ideological aktiv of the Moscow garrison. It was devoted to the results of the summit talks in Washington and also to certain topical issues of restructuring in the Army and Navy. In his speech, the USSR defense minister observed that the signing of the Treaty between the USSR and the United States on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles is an important landmark in international development. This is the first step toward reduction of the nuclear arsenal. It is already having an salutary impact on the political climate of the planet, enhancing the mutual trust of states, and strengthening hope for the triumph of realism and reason in the present complex, contradictory, and interdependent world. Soviet people, too, take pride in the fact that this was done at the initiative of the CPSU, which is consistently and persistently implementing the Leninist policy of peace, as well as translating into reality the historic decisions of the 27th congress. Our country will persistently continue its peace policy. We are operating under conditions of establishing a new political thinking, and this is also a great gain of ours. Of course, all this does not diminish but on the contrary emphasizes the significance of the combat readiness of units and ships and of each serviceman's selfless discharge of his duty.

In his speech and in his answers to questions from propagandists, the USSR defense minister dwelt on a number of problems of restructuring in the Armed Forces. Special attention was paid to improving work on the training of military cadres, ensuring social justice in making appointments and promotions, in providing housing accommodation, and when resolving other issues. It was emphasized that the time has come when a particularly great deal depends on the activeness of each party organization, each Communist, and each fighter on the ideological front in solving tasks of the new stage of restructuring, and in attaining specific successes in any particular sector of our work. The aim of that work is further enhancement of vigilance, combat readiness, and strengthening of military discipline.

It was noted that under present conditions, the process of ideological struggle against alien influences and effects is not slackening but is intensifying. The significance of Communists' adherence to principle and their activeness in repulsing immature judgements is increasing. Our

propaganda, in assessing and responding to all such occurrences, must be based on a Marxist-Leninist world outlook, on the advantages of our socialist spiritual values over bourgeois ones, and on profound communist conviction.

Lizichev, Others Address KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Staff

PM231859 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "Conference-Seminar of Military Journalists"]

[Text] A conference-seminar of permanent KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondents who represent the newspaper in the Armed Forces branches, military okrugs, groups of forces, and fleets was held on 14-18 December. It summed up the results of work in 1987 and discussed problems in restructuring the work of the editorial office. It also discussed ways to further improve coverage of life in the forces and the fleets, combat and political training, reinforcement of military discipline, and enhancement of combat readiness, in accordance with the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, the party Central Committee plenums, and the demands of the USSR Minister of Defense and the chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

The conference-seminar participants were addressed by Army General A. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Army General Yu. Maksimov, commander in chief of the Strategic Missile Forces and USSR deputy defense minister; Army General Ye. Ivanovskiy, commander in chief of the Ground Forces and USSR deputy defense minister; Lieutenant General V. Litvinov, first deputy commander in chief of the Air Defense Forces; Colonel General of Aviation B. Korolkov, first deputy commander in chief of the Air Force; Admiral of the Fleet N. Smirnov, first deputy commander in chief of the Navy.

At the same time, a conference of agents of the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Publishing House at decentralized press centers was held. Questions of improving the quality of the press, delivery of the newspaper to subscribers, and stepped-up efforts for the paper's dissemination were discussed.

Sukhorukov Attends Army Personnel Conference

PM231347 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Dec 87 Second Edition p 1

[Report by unnamed own correspondent: "Conference of Personnel Workers"]

[Text] A conference of the leading staff of the Soviet Army and Navy personnel organs has been held at the USSR Defense Ministry Main Personnel Directorate.

A report on the progress of restructuring in work with military cadres and tasks involved in further intensifying it in light of demands of the 27th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums was delivered by Army General D. Sukhorukov, USSR deputy defense minister.

The conference was addressed by Colonel General D. Volkogonov, deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, Lieutenant General V. Arapov, first deputy chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Main Personnel Directorate, and other comrades. There was an exchange of opinions and experience of work in improving the selection, placement, training, and education of officer cadres under conditions of restructuring and of enhancing their role and responsibility in performing the tasks facing the USSR Armed Forces in the new training year.

I. Larin, N. Shlyaga, and N. Chukardin, senior officials in the CPSU Central Committee, also took part in the conference.

Reserve Lieutenant General G.I. Domanin Dies

PM221331 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[Unattributed obituary of Reserve Lieutenant General Georgiy Ilich Domanin]

[Excerpts] Reserve Lieutenant General Georgiy Ilich Domanin, a veteran of the Great Patriotic War and winner of the USSR Council of Ministers prize, has died suddenly. [passage omitted]

G.I. Domanin was born in 1925 in the settlement of Savala, Zherdevskiy Rayon, Tambov Oblast. In 1942 he was drafted into the Soviet Army. He graduated from the V.V. Kuybyshev Military Engineering Academy and worked in planning organizations for about 20 years. From 1975 through April 1987, he was chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Technical Directorate of Capital Construction. [passage omitted]

N.F. Shestopalov, K.M. Vertelov, N.S. Kovalenko, L.V. Shumilov, V.I. Ivankov, N.V. Chekov, S.A. Spirin, N.G. Tyurin, I.T. Chernyshov, G.A. Petukhov, K.I. Mukhin, A.G. Zhoromskiy, V.M. Zakimatov, N.V. Gryaznov, L.N. Kotov, K.F. Pogorelov, A.I. Borovtsev, S.S. Kostromin, S.A. Voinov, N.F. Pershin, V.S. Udaltsov, V.I. Koelsnikov, P.A. Pospelov, V.S. Burmistrov, V.I. Bychenko, Ye.I. Maykov, A.S. Mikhaylovskiy.